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ISSN 1753-111-X



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FIGHTS: The Ocaqbasi in St Peter's street lost its late licence after numerous violent incidents involving shop staff and customers

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

A CANTERBURY kebab shop's late-night licence has been revoked following allegations of between punch-ups between staff and drunken customers.

The police asked for the hours to be shortened after two serious assaults and 15 other violent incidents at the Ocaqbasi takeaway since July 2009. Police were also called to seven other disturbances during this period.

The kebab shop is at the far north end of the high street on the corner with St Peter's Place.

Police told the hearing that earlier this year a patrol discovered what they described as a "mélée".

Punching

Shop staff were allegedly kicking and punching customers. The victims sustained injuries to their faces and necks, and the staff later claimed self-defence.

A second fight took place in which one attacker is alleged to have used a weapon.

Other occasions police were called to the kebab shop to deal with fights between drunken customers.

In a report to the licensing committee Chief Superintendent John Molloy said there was a series of similar offences at the shop.

He wrote: "In the last months, the premises have been subject to several incidents of crime and disorder. Recently, in the last eight months, the premises have been the subject of two serious incidents of assault."

"In each of these cases, staff from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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your lifestyle

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NEWS EDITOR: Gareth Arnold 01303 817025

GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032

WEBSITE: www.yourcanterbury.co.uk

TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110

FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: yourcanterbury@kosmedia.co.uk Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS

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Shop told to close earlier

FROM FRONT PAGE
premises have been involved as offenders of the assault. Staff at the premises lack confidence in dealing with aggravated situations on the premises and therefore their actions are unacceptable.

"Police would submit incident levels associated with Ocakbasi are excessive and unacceptable. On more than one occasion staff have chosen to use

bodily force to deal with aggressive situations."

On Friday, October 15, in a meeting closed to the public for legal reasons, Canterbury council's licensing sub committee agreed with police decided the shop should close earlier.

It will now not be allowed to serve food or alcohol after 11pm, whereas it remained open until 3.30am.

Fashion swap for hospice

TO SEE a first-rate fashion show of second-hand garments and swap your much-loved attire, go to the Pilgrims Hospices' clothes extravaganza.

Models will only be dressed in donated garb, and anyone can bring their old clothes to exchange for others.

Tickets cost £7 in advance or £9 on the door, and all proceeds go to the Pilgrims Hospices charity.

Doors open at 5.30pm on Saturday, November 20 in Canterbury's Chaucer Technology School. The event runs from 6pm to 9pm.

To book call Laura on 07849 994 046 or email Charlotte at charlotteterry@hotmail.com

If you are interested in volunteering for the event or taking part in future fundraising activities call Becky on 07903 435 906.

Piers' pride in family's part in last conflict on British soil

■ BY JILL HURST

A COMMEMORATION that took place last month to recognise the Battle of Graveney Marsh has uncovered some A-list connections.

Outspoken journalist and Britain's Got Talent judge Piers Morgan revealed the heroic captain whose actions captured a prized enemy bomber in the last known conflict fought on British soil is his great uncle.

Writing about the skirmish Mr Morgan said: "A celebration took place in Kent, commemorating the last time British troops engaged in battle with invading forces on home soil.

"It was 70 years ago that men from the 1st Battalion London Rifles fought a four-man crew from a German bomber in what became known as the Battle of Graveney Marsh.

"Captain Cantopher overheard one of the captured Germans saying the plane was going to go up at any moment. Aware the Junkers 88 was an invaluable new variant, Captain Cantopher dashed back to the aircraft, found a bomb under one of the wings and threw it into a dyke. Thus saving the plane, which was only two weeks old, for British engineers to examine.

"The only reason I'm telling you all this is that Captain Cantopher was



MEMORIAL MARCH: Veterans march on Graveney Marsh and (left) Piers Morgan, whose great uncle was involved in the 'battle' when a German bomber crew was captured by British troops



my great-uncle, brother to my grandmother and his only surviving sibling Margot.

"Fittingly my brother Jeremy returned from a tour of Afghanistan and was able to attend the ceremony with her. Jeremy didn't chuck any bombs into Taliban dykes, but like every other serviceman, and woman out there he did his duty, in his case training thousands of Afghan troops how to fight, and made his family fiercely proud."

More than 120 members of the London Irish Rifles Association marched out to the marshes on Sunday, September 26.

After walking the few hundred yards from the scene of the battle to The Sportsman pub they were joined by serving officers of the London Irish Rifles D-Regiment, the Whitstable Brass Band the 312 Canterbury Air Cadets together with hundreds of members of the public for a service of

remembrance led by The Reverend Donald Lugg.

Soldiers from the London Irish Rifles billeted at the Sportsman sprung into action on September 27, 1940, racing to capture the plane and four crewmen, including pilot Fritz Ruhlandt.

Also present on the day of the commemoration including sisters Sheila Gilham and Brenda Hitches from Seasalter, now aged 80 and 78.

They had watched in awe as the bomber came down near to their childhood home. Then aged ten and eight they cycled to the fields excited at seeing a "Gerry" shot down.

Once the furore had settled they returned in the evening to get the parachutes which their mother used to make silk blouses.

The sister's late father helped remove part of the Junkers 88 and store it in his garage until it was collected by the RAF.

Budget cuts to hit students in pocket

EXCLUSIVE

■ BY JILL HURST

UNIVERSITIES in Canterbury have said students will pay more and the poorest may lose out because of "massive" budget cuts and the controversial Browne Report.

The report into higher education recommends there should be no upper tuition fee limit, graduates would only have to pay back their student when they earn over £21,000 a year but some loans would have interest charged on them.

Professor Jan Druker is the senior pro-vice chancellor at Christ Church University. She said the university expects the Government's spending review to remove most, if not all, of their teaching fund.

She said: "We have a difficult choice to make. It would be with great reluctance that we would increase fees for our courses. However, it would be hard to see how we could avoid doing that.

"A rise from the current charge of £3,290 a year to a sum of around £6,000, is likely to hit families very hard, especially those families on low or middle income, which many of our students come from.

"We have worked hard with local communities to encourage students who may not have had the opportunity or the confidence to continue onto higher education and study at university, to realise their dreams.

"We are under no illusion that the rise in fees may be a deterrent to those students.

"Many of our students also go on to work in Kent's public services, where whilst they we earn a reasonable income, they will not be amongst the

country's top earners. For them the prospect of paying back a significant student loan will be a great worry."

MP Julian Brazier has called on the Government to maintain high standards in universities and help poorer students after the controversial Browne Report on Tuesday, October 12. But he supports the report.

He said: "I know from both the University of Kent and Christ Church that their budgets are desperately tight. Students are struggling and the nation is broke, making savings necessary.

"The Government will make proposals that will not only make it attractive for students from families of modest means to go to university, but be fair and affordable, including by exempting the poorest students from graduate contributions for some or all of their studies."

• For more on the Browne Report, see page 12.



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Pressed flowers give climate change clues

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

SCIENTISTS have found a rich new source of data for discovering how climate change will affect our delicate eco-system – old pressed flowers.

Billions of samples of pressed flowers are kept in museums and repositories across the world, and University of Kent scientists have proved these can be used to predict how or whether temperature changes could unbalance our natural habitat.

They have found that the way temperature changes affect what time of year plants flower today is the same as seen in 100-year-old herbaria – collections of pressed flowers.

Dr David Roberts is a lecturer in biodiversity conservation at the university's School of Anthropology and Conservation.

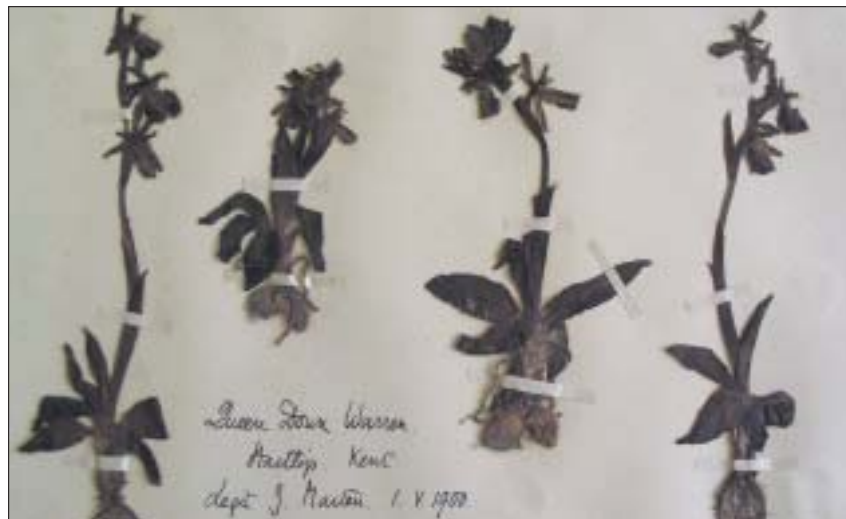
He said: "We have dead plants and know they were in flower on a certain date. We can take all these dead, squashed flowers over time and you can take the date in change in flowering, and look at it in relation to change in temperature.

"We have needed to compare this with real field observations. We showed the herbaria specimens showed the same response as they really do.

"Now we have shown this we can start going through the records. Kew Gardens has over seven million specimens – that is an awful lot, so we can work out the effects of climate change on different species."

Ecologists aim to link up information on how climate change affects plants with similar studies on insects which pollinate plants. They can discover whether the plants and insects respond differently to temperature changes.

If, for example, a specific bee which pollinates



SPECIMEN: Herbarium sheet of the early spider orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*) at Kew, a record from Kent in May 1, 1900

a specific orchid is born too early to pollinate the orchid above a certain temperature, that flower may die out.

Studies to collect this complex, long-term data are usually very expensive and time-consuming, but now scientists can tap into a vast existing resource of specimens instead of spending years finding their own.

Dr Roberts said: "We have unlocked a huge source of data and it is a economic resource because it is already there – it has already been collected. We have come along 150 years later and have found we can use it for this purpose as well.

"Eventually we want to start doing a big study of the flowering times of British plants and then start looking at the pollinators and which species pollinate which plants, so we can start building up this big interaction web and what the implication of climate change are.

"We want to know what is going to happen to the whole of the ecosystem."

The study was also written by Karen Robbirt from Kew gardens, Anthony Davy from the University of East Anglia and Michael Hutchings from the University of Sussex.

Discoveries from underneath the Beany on show

A GOLD Roman bracelet, 300-year-old drinking tankards, a tiny carved Turkish gemstone and beautiful pottery are all on show after being found beneath the Beany Institute.

The archaeology exhibition at the Museum of Canterbury showcases nearly 2,000 years of history in our city after Canterbury Archaeological Trust conducted a major dig by the high street.

The artefacts have been found over the past six months during work in the High Street to remodel the Beany Institute, the city's library in a £10 million renovation.

Visitors will be able to see the rich collection of precious finds, find out more about the excavations and see photos and a presentation of the dig.

The excavations were undertaken because the Beany gallery and library is being redeveloped and extended.

As part of the exhibition, which is not open to the public, children can make a Roman bracelet, create new Samian ware Roman pottery or a wall plaster design. Youngsters can also enter a creative writing competition for a prize.

There will also be a finds day on Saturday, October 23 between 1.30pm and 4pm where museum-goers can talk to archaeologists, see finds up close and also bring in their own archaeological artefacts for identification.

The 'Buried Beneath the Beany' exhibition runs until Thursday, November 4. The museum is open Monday to Saturday from 11am to 4pm. Entrance is free to council residents card holders and their families.



UNCOVERED: One of the artefacts on display

Woman of the Year success for Susie

ENABLING disabled Tanzanians to make and sell arts and crafts has led to a Canterbury woman being awarded a Woman of the Year Award.

Susie Hart, who used to go to the Simon Langton girls' school, was given the 'Window to the World' category of the significant, national awards.

Annie Lennox, Julie Walters, Lulu, designer Cath Kidston, top politicians Tessa Jowell and Teresa May, and Fern Britton, Fiona Bruce, Shami Chakrabarti and Sandy Toksvig were among the many who came along to the awards ceremony held in upmarket Park Lane, London.

Susie was nominated for the award by comedian Sandy Toksvig because of her work setting up the Neema Centre in Tanzania. The award is given to a woman who shows constant determination to raise awareness and change attitudes on ignored social issues.

Her award is one of only four awarded at the annual event.

The Neema Crafts Centre For People With Disabilities in Iringa, Tanzania, has now been running for eight years and has been working to change the negative attitudes towards disabled people in that society.

Mrs Hart moved to Tanzania with her family to set up the centre to provide employment for as many of disabled people there as possible. In the African country 10 per cent of the population is disabled, and it is often



CEREMONY: Susie Hart with fellow award winner, singer Annie Lennox, and (right) Hezron, a Tanzanian who spent three years lying in a dark, closed room after being disabled in a road accident, whose life has been changed for the better by the support from the Neema Crafts Centre set up by Mrs Hart

considered something shameful or caused by evil spirits.

She now employs more than 120 disabled people full-time and the crafts are sold internationally.

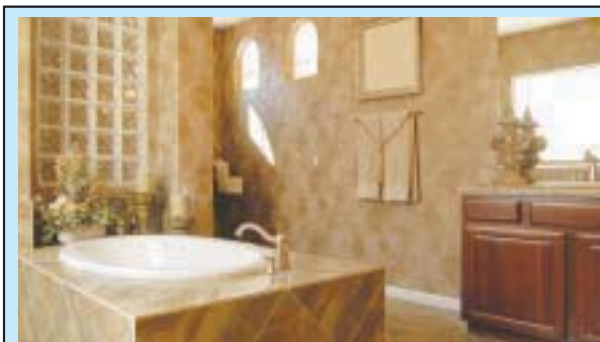
During her acceptance speech Mrs Hart said: "I am delighted to accept the award on behalf of all the tenacious, hard-working and inspirational men and women with disabilities with whom I work in Tanzania.

"I myself was born with a disability and had 22 operations by the time I was 19. Had I been born in Tanzania I would never have walked.

"People with disabilities in Tanzania

are amongst the poorest of the poor. They are excluded by their society socially, economically and educationally; are forced into street begging to support themselves, or are kept hidden away at home behind closed doors, such is the level of stigma attached to having a disability in Tanzania.

"All these incredible men and women have now received handicrafts training and employment at Neema Crafts Centre and have been enabled and empowered to support themselves and their families with pride and dignity, and bright hope for the future."



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Trainee teachers out of pocket as travel expenses are axed

TRAINEE teachers are disgruntled after finding out they could not claim promised travel expenses halfway through their first term.

Teaching students at Christ Church University were told in their student handbooks they would be given 6p per mile when travelling to work placements.

But earlier this month they were told there had been a mistake and the expenses would not be paid. Students were instead told travel expenses had to be paid from their bursaries, which have been reduced by £2,000 this year.

In an email the university said: "We apologise you have received incorrect information about your entitlement to a contribution for your travel to placement. It has been decided this academic year not to pay a reimbursement.

EXCLUSIVE

BY **STUART McBRIDE**
AND **JENNY ARMSTRONG**

"In the past students all have received a contribution for their travel, even if they were not incurring costs.

"We held discussion across all PGCE programmes and, given that PGCE students receive a bursary from the Government to contribute to the costs, it was decided to remove the university's contribution to travel.

"The funding will be concentrated on those routes into teaching where students do not receive a bursary.

"This decision was reached late last academic year after some handbooks had gone to print."

A student who did not wish to be named said: "We need some support if we are going to be able to afford to continue with this course.

"We realise 6p per mile is not a vast amount, but when you are a student every contribution is welcome, especially for those of us who face a commute of more than 250 miles a week.

"Our course is not a typical post graduate course with lectures, seminars and research; a huge percentage of it is work placement.

"We just want the university to deliver the promises it made when we started."

Dr John Moss, dean of the faculty of education, said: "In the past all teacher training students received a contribution for their travel.

"Last summer we reviewed this system and decided it was not the most fair or equitable way of distributing funds.

"We will be further reviewing arrangements for this academic year.

Villagers donate cash for Gurkhas

VILLAGERS spontaneously showed their generosity after a talk by a leading former Gurkha.

Bhim Raj, the ex-Gurkha who organised many mass demonstrations for Gurkha rights in England, spoke to the Littlebourne Afternoon Club about injustices endured by the Nepalese men who fight for Britain, and their families.

City councillor Brian Staley, who represents the village, also talked about the seven-year campaign for better Gurkha rights to settle in England and better pensions.

The pair are working to set up a charity called the Gurkha Peace Foundation. Cllr Staley said the charity is keen to help fund a project for orphans and street children in Nepal, and strengthen ties of friendship between Britain and Nepal.

Members of the Littlebourne Afternoon Club spontaneously raised £100 for the foundation, and said they would like to raise more money with a curry night with traditional Nepalese dancing in the village.



DUNG DOWN THE DRAIN

ELEPHANTS' jumbo-sized poos have meant Howletts Wild Animal Park has had to call in the plumbers to deal with a mounting problem.

The wild animal park in Bekebourne houses 14 elephants, which each create their large piles of droppings every two hours.

Although the elephant enclosure is connected to the mains water supply, it was not connected to the sewers, so keepers had to shovel all waste away by hand.

Most of the dung is used as fertiliser by farmers, but after the majority is removed, the enclosure is washed down and the resultant mess has to be taken away by tankers.

But the park and Southern Water have now arranged to connect the elephant enclosure to a sewer, meaning less expenditure for the zoo.

Southern Water trade effluent inspector, Nigel Jarman, said: "This is definitely one of our more unusual trade effluent contracts."

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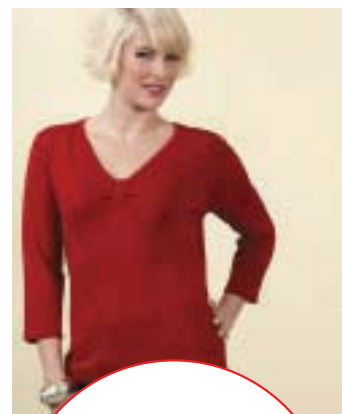
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Bonhams search for hidden gems along Kent coast

AN influential auction house is offering free valuations on rock and roll and film memorabilia in Whitstable.

On Tuesday, October 26 auctioneers from Bonhams will visit their Whitstable offices to try and unearth forgotten pop-culture gems for inclusion in an upcoming specialist sale in December.

The Beatles played for six nights at the Winter Gardens in nearby Margate in July 1963, and this summer the auction house sold a rare window card advertising the gigs for £3,360.

The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, The Who and Joy Division have all played in Kent, and Bonhams specialists want to meet anyone with posters or autographs.

Many influential film and music icons have also lived in the area and appeared at nearby venues, including famous actor Peter Cushing, who lived in Whitstable.

In 2007, Bonhams sold one of his costume jackets for £12,000.

Free valuations are available on pop-culture memorabilia including posters, props, autographs, posters, programmes, tickets, costumes and previously unseen photos. These will take place at 95/97 Tankerton Road in Whitstable.

For an appointment call 01227 275 007 or email kent@bonhams.com.



FAB FOUR: The Beatles

24-hour specialist cardiac unit gets top care award

■ BY ED HILL

A GROUNDBREAKING round-the-clock service to treat heart attack patients at the William Harvey Hospital has received a top award.

The specialist cardiac unit which treats people with emergency surgery rather than drugs was announced as a regional winner of the NHS Health and Social Care Awards at a ceremony in Brighton.

Launched earlier this year, the unit treats people suffering the most severe types of heart attack by angioplasty. Under local anaesthetic, a small balloon is inserted via an artery in the groin or arm and guided to a blockage in an artery. Once in place, the balloon is inflated and removed, leaving behind a rigid 'stent' which allows blood to flow through.

Before its introduction, heart attack patients were given thrombolysis, the injection of a clot-busting drug.

The Kent Cardiovascular Network has overseen the implementation project across Kent and Medway.

Geoffrey Wheat, cardiac director for the network, said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive this award in recognition of the hard work and the dedication of staff that has taken place in setting up this front-line service.

"Patients are treated better, faster and have



LIFESAVERS: Bryan Sutton (above left) was the first person to receive the new cardiac treatment from William Harvey

fewer subsequent cardiac problems following the procedure."

Thanks to a major investment in telemetry, a patient's electrocardiogram (ECG) results are sent straight from an ambulance to the specialist team at Ashford who can confirm the type of heart attack and where the patient needs to be treated. This is results in fewer patients being less likely to die from heart attacks or be crippled by the effects of angina.

The service means the William Harvey Hospital is the main centre for coordinating severe heart attack treatment across the county.

Bryan Sutton, 51, was the first person to



receive the new treatment when he suffered a heart attack at his home in Deal.

He said: "The treatment was absolutely fantastic from start to finish and I have no doubt it saved my life.

"From arriving at the hospital to being back in the care unit was 22 minutes. Five minutes later I was sitting up having a cup of tea.

"Everyone from the paramedics to the surgeon was so professional they totally put me at ease and there were absolutely no complications.

"Four or five days later I was outside gardening and I haven't felt so well in a long time. I have no chest pains, no angina – it's amazing."

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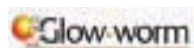
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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

DANIEL SCARFE

Picture: UNIVERSITY OF BATH/NIC DELVES-BROUGHTON



Q Can you tell me a bit about your person-powered plane?

A As part of my final-year project of my master's degree in aerospace engineering at Bath University, myself along with a colleague Jon Cherry, have been designing a human-powered aircraft.

Human powered flight is by no means a new venture. Leonardo DaVinci had grand, albeit overambitious plans designs for such a thing.

Gareth Evans, an engineer from Airbus, kindly donated a pre-constructed space frame with the express desire it not only be completed as part of a degree project, but it also be removed from taking up so much space in his living room.

The university was only too happy to oblige. The task undertaken for my final year project was to design and build the main wing for the contraption. Some quick maths based on the projected weight of available materials put the wingspan in the region of about 20 metres.

As it stands, the wings are almost completed with just the final skinning and road-testing to be undertaken. We have even dubbed it with a quirky acronym which is BUMPF – Bath University Man-Powered Flight.

Q What did you find particularly difficult about it?

A Extended human-powered flight was shown to be possible back in the late 80s with the successful flight of Massachusetts

Institute of Technology's aircraft Daedalus over the 74 miles from Santorini to Crete. The university budget couldn't quite match that, so the main purpose of the project has been to see whether such a device can be constructed from everyday available materials.

The challenge has been to make use of items such as off-the-shelf bicycle parts, stock metal tubing, Styrofoam insulation and polyester sheeting, whilst maintaining a rigorous aerodynamic design. It should be the case that every person can lay their hands on the materials.

Q Is it likely to be a global phenomenon?

A As much as I would like it to be, I think the practicalities say otherwise. Yes we have shown it is possible to obtain the materials required on a shoe-string budget, however the painstaking and fiddly assembly will no-doubt deter all but the most committed hobbyist.

As for everyday operation, the size and lightweight construction makes the craft susceptible to even the slightest of gusts, not to mention that human-powered aircraft can only really operate at an altitude of about five metres.

They make use of what is known as 'ground effect' – essentially the creation of drag-inducing vortices is restricted due to the interference of the ground. So it is not exactly ideal for nipping down to the shops. We do hope, however, that we can prove that it can be done, and the Aeronautical Society prize money is still available for those taking up the challenge.

Q When will it be finished?

A In about Easter 2011. There is quite a lot of testing to be done before its inaugural flight to make sure it is safe.

It has now been handed over to the next generation of final-year students who, I think, will be looking at pilot housing and improving drive efficiency – pedal power into propeller power. They are on the lookout for a fit and lightweight pilot at the moment. A predilection towards adrenaline is advised, but not required.

Q What is your day job?

A Having graduated I currently work in the defence industry. And that is pretty much all I'm allowed to say. I am keeping a close eye on the project though and I intend to be continually involved, hopefully by drumming up some sponsorship through some different companies.

Q How did you become interested in engineering?

A I studied maths and physics at school and it was pretty much a natural progression. I love hands-on projects, along the ability to solve puzzles, and aerospace engineering fit the bill perfectly. Not to mention the current deficit of UK engineers – there were still jobs available. The course at Bath University particularly caught my eye because of its willingness to get involved with these sorts of projects.

Q & A

Jenny Armstrong speaks to Canterbury aerospace engineer Daniel Scarfe about his human-powered aircraft project and how he became an engineer

ADVERTISERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs Tara Plumbing writes:

Mr TP's mother-in-law came to stay for a weekend recently. Yes, that's right, she is my mum!

The first thing mum did was Henry the whole house, including bedroom carpets and skirting boards.

I have never had a real Hoover but I'm not impressed by Henry. He is a poor replacement for the Dyson which sucked up the carpets making them look like new. Mr TP invariably ruins our vacuum cleaners by taking them to work.

I told mum that I had only just Henried it all the day before, did the floor really look squalid already?

Later, our 8 year old son started screaming in the shower while his nana was on some other scrubbing and decontamination mission. Mum did not know that you cannot run the water in the kitchen when someone is in the shower.

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Spruced up in time for city's festival



CLEAN BREAK: Volunteers at work in the city

HUNDREDS took park in Canterbury's first Big Clean in time for the festival.

Council workers, shop staff, business people and residents all helped give the city a good scrub. Taking part were volunteers from the Canterbury Society, St Mildred's Area Community Society, Oaten Hill and District Association, St Peter's Association, and Westgate Community Trust.

Cllr Nick Eden-Green even braved the Stour in waders to fish out rubbish. He said: "I was amazed at how bad things were. Station Road East, a gateway to the city, was a disgrace. The riverside walk in Kingsmead produced a mountain of rubbish. Residents were determined to clean up what has become a grubby cityscape. I hope the council can now keep things spick and span."

Staff from the Community Safety Unit were also out looking for litter and graffiti hotspots so council contractors Serco could clean up the areas, or private landlords could be urged to act.

The Big Clean was organised by the Canterbury City Partnership.

Policing travellers helped by kudos and 'flash cars'

■ BY STIAN ALEXANDER

GYPSIES regularly refuse to be arrested by police who turn up in ordinary squad cars, insisting they will only go quietly if they get driven off in a "flash motor".

In an insight into the notoriously secret world of gypsy camps, police have revealed some of the measures they take to bond with the traveller community.

There are about 100,000 nomadic travellers and gypsies in the UK and about 200,000 who live in permanent housing such as static caravan sites or council accommodation. In an interview with officers from the Tactical Support Group (Rural) in the publication Police Review, the quirks of dealing with gypsies were revealed. Officers policing the 16-pitch Chilmington site in Ashford said times had changed since police were automatically met with hostility and suspicion and gypsy sites were no-go zones. Officers of the TSGR – which replaced the gypsy liaison team – revealed the changes in policing since building a rapport with the community.

PC Grahame Regan said many travellers due to be questioned refused to get into "cheap" Peugeot patrol cars and wanted to be taken off in a Land Rover Discovery.

He said: "You might pull up at the roadside and will be chatting away. Then a car will come



RAPPORT: Police and travellers have improved relations

by and they will start shouting and waving their arms about. Once the car has gone they'll start talking to you normally again. We've got used to it now. We know another gypsy has driven past."

He told Police Review: "Kudos is important in the gypsy and traveller community. We have had times when gypsies have made it difficult for police to pick them up in a Peugeot, but they will give themselves up for us with our Land Rover. They want to go off in a decent motor."

PC Regan said when they needed to speak to a traveller about a suspected offence, they often felt confident enough just to leave a card and wait for the suspect to contact them.

He said: "We can go onto the site, say we need to speak and leave our number. Nine times out of ten they will phone and arrange to meet at a police station. They know we'll keep coming back if they don't. We give them a bit of respect and trust. They like that way of doing things."

Det Con Kim White said getting to grips with the culture was one of the first hurdles. She said: "It's simple things like understanding the cleanliness of the home. For example, if we need to take a drugs dog through the trailer, anything the dog comes into contact with, such as clothing or bedding, would be burned once we leave."

"Being offered a cup of tea is as good as a handshake and means you have been accepted. It's also about knowing who to speak to on the site and being able to differentiate between gypsies and Irish, Welsh or Scottish travellers, who have different customs."

She added: "What so many officers do is ignore people on the sites. A lot of officers do not like going on site, they just want to get on and get off."

"It's just being courteous. The minute someone comes up to an officer, they'll often tell them go away and that it's nothing to do with them. That's what we have to get away from."

Sgt Clive Garton said he and his officers are on first-name terms with the travellers. He said: "They know our vehicles and know our faces. It's not only the way we treat them but also how we deal with criminality that they respect."

PC Rob Withey said although members of the community were usually happy to talk to police now, they would blank officers at big gypsy meetings, such as a horse fair, so they didn't come across as 'cop lovers'.

He said: "Some families might be nice as pie when you see them. But if you see them at a horse fair where there are hundreds, even thousands, of gypsies, not one will speak to you."



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I just want the truth, says 7/7 father

THE father of a victim of the 7/7 London bombings says he hopes the truth about his son's death might finally emerge.

An inquest began last week into the deaths of the 52 people killed in the 2005 suicide attacks on three tube trains and a bus.

Grahame Russell, from East Peckham, near Tonbridge, lost his son, Philip, 28, who was on the number 30 bus blown up in Tavistock Square.

Many families want a public inquiry and have questions over what the security services knew about the attacks and whether they could have been stopped.

Mr Russell said: "What I'd really like is the truth to come out, none of this smoke-screening that has gone on in the past."

"One has to take into account issues they may or may not be able to release, but the Official Secrets Act has been used as something to hide behind. We're trusting things will come out in the inquest that will say what happened and really tell the truth."

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

There have been five official reports into the attacks, but none has looked at how the victims died.

Mr Russell and his wife, Veronica, have not yet attended the inquest, at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, but will be there when it examines events at Tavistock Square, early next year. The hearing is expected to last until March.

Footage and pictures of the chaotic aftermath of the bombings has already been shown. Witnesses who survived the attacks on Underground trains near Aldgate, Edgware Road and Russell Square stations and on the double-decker in Tavistock Square, near Kings Cross, will provide evidence. Members of the emergency services will also give their accounts of events.

"Stuff will come out that has never been heard before," Mr Russell said. "The problem is everyone tries to cover for themselves, not just the intelligence services. I think there

are issues that will emerge later down the road. Each day there will be something new."

The inquest is being held by Lady Justice Hallett and Mr Russell said he had faith in her ability.

"The coroner managed to set a wide scope for the inquest, which is unusual, I have every faith she will handle it competently," he added.

As well as those killed, some 700 people were injured, many of them severely and permanently, when the four suicide bombers, who were all British men backed by al-Qaeda, detonated their devices.

Mr Russell's son, Philip, who worked as a finance manager for JP Morgan Asset Management and was living in Kennington, south London, was among 13 people who died on the number 30 bus.



DEADLY: Aftermath of the Tavistock Square bus blast

Long waits adding to the anguish

CHILDREN and young people with mental health problems are being forced to wait eight months to start treatment – with some forced to wait double that.

Now Kent MP Greg Clark has asked NHS chiefs to look into the issue as a "matter of urgency".

The Conservative minister said: "The danger is that if the youngsters do not receive timely help, their problems can escalate and become much more serious. Just like any other health problem, it is very important to receive prompt treatment," he said.

"Unfortunately, mental health is a hidden illness and has, all too often, been overlooked in the past – this cannot continue."

The NHS West Kent Primary Care Trust announced last week that a multi-million-pound centre to care for children and young people with severe mental health problems from across the county was set to open early next year. Winthrop Hall, in Staplehurst, will provide inpatient treatment as well as a 24-hour specialist, community-based service.

But Mr Clark – who is minister for decentralisation and also the MP for Tunbridge Wells – remained unconvinced that enough was being done for children suffering from mild to moderate mental health problems.

He said: "This new centre is extremely welcome. However, I see it as just the first step to improving mental health services for young people. I remain concerned that those

suffering from less severe problems, who don't need in-patient care, are still having to wait too long for treatment and I have asked the PCT to look at this as a matter of urgency."

A spokeswoman for Mr Clark said they had discovered that one young person had waited 16 months from the first referral from their GP to the start of treatment. She said generally the waiting time was around eight months, which was "agonisingly slow for the families".

Long waiting times are affecting children and young people with a range of conditions such as eating disorders, self harm, phobias and obsessive compulsive disorders, she said.

Julia Ross, the West Kent trust's executive lead for mental health, said: "We welcome Mr Clark's interest and are working with him as we continue to improve services for young people with mental health issues."

Meanwhile, £6 million is being spent transforming Winthrop Hall, a former drug rehab centre, to provide Kent's first dedicated children's mental health centre, which means they will no longer have to travel to London for treatment.

The county's three primary care trusts, NHS West Kent, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and NHS Medway, have commissioned South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM), which specialises in mental health, to provide the service.



URGENCY: MP Greg Clark



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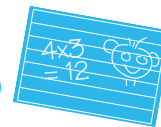
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BREAK TIME

Arts, music and dance at activities session

MUSIC, singing, song-writing and dancing are just some of the activities school-children will be able to enjoy at new week-end arts days in Canterbury.

Every Saturday during term time children aged between six and 16 can also learn about storytelling, drama and drumming.

Workshops run by everyone from local artists to world-famous maestros will be run between 10am and 1pm at the Chaucer Technology School.

The arts mornings are being run by educational charity Music for Change and cost £15 for the three hour sessions.

The first session is on Saturday, November 13. For more information call 01227 459 243.

Peer's talk opens door on life in Westminster

A PEER of the land has visited a Canterbury school to answer questions about politics, laws and their work in parliament.

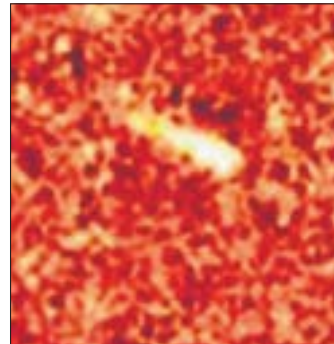
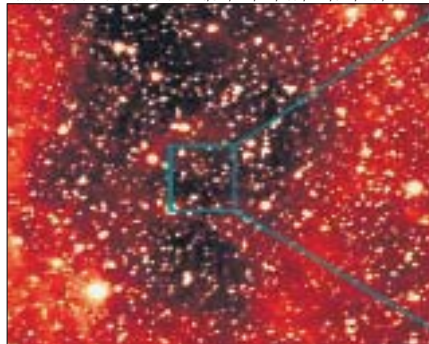
Baroness Andrews is a non-partisan peer and is the first female chairwoman of English Heritage. She visited the Spires Academy in Sturry on Friday, October 15.

The visit is part of a national programme of such events organised by the Lord Speaker Baroness Hayman.

She said: "Events in Westminster can sometimes seem remote and it is vital people understand what goes on and how they are able to interact with parliamentarians to promote and progress causes important to them."

"I hope this can contribute to developing that understanding among school students."

Pictures ESA 2010 MPS for OSIRIS-Team MPS/UPD/LAM/LAA/RSSD/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA



WATCH THIS SPACE: Asteroid P/2010 A2 as seen by the camera system OSIRIS on board the European Space Agency's space probe Rosetta, taken in March 2010, and (right) the Hale Telescope

Asteroids' collision caught on camera by university experts

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

SCIENTISTS have discovered more about how space dust is created after two asteroids smashed into each other near Mars.

Among the astronomers who observed the rare collision in our solar system were the University of Kent's Dr Stephen Lowry and PhD student Ryan Laird.

Dr Lowry said: "It has long been suspected that such collisions are taking place within the asteroid belt, but never before have the remains been observed so soon after the impact event and dated with such precision."

"Asteroid astronomers can now, for the first time, study the physics of an impact debris trail as well as establishing how collisions of this nature supply the solar system's inventory of dust particles."

"These dust particles contribute to the phenomenon that is visible from Earth known as the Zodiacal Light."

Zodiacal Light is a faint, triangular-shaped white glow observable at night which is caused by sunlight scattered by space dust.

The collision was a unique event and Dr Lowry led observations of it from the world-famous Hale telescope in California and in the New Technology Telescope in Chile.

At the same time colleagues from an observatory in Germany were using cameras aboard the Rosetta space probe to look at the debris.

Millions of large and small fragments of rock make up the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and many of them collide, but most of them are not discovered by astronomers.

Instead they have to work out what has happened in the past using bands of dust that spread across the sky. Often these collisions are thousands or even millions of years old.

Dr Colin Snodgrass, who is the lead author of the study into the collision, said: "In comparison in was practically yesterday. It is like finding a fresh dinosaur body instead of having to figure out how they look from fossils."

The study was published in a recent edition of respected science journal Nature.

■ **EXPERIMENTS** and spectacular demonstrations came to the Simon Langton Girls' School last week to teach pupils about the wonders of science.

The Canterbury school hosted the Institute of Physics' 'Ever Wondered Why?' roadshow on Wednesday, July 14.

The event is a touring physics spectacle which shows why so many mind-boggling phenomena are based on physics. The day answered tough old questions like why the sky is blue, why the sun is hot and why the stars twinkle.

Pupils also got to enjoy hands-on demonstrations including airzookas, smoke machines and whizzy-whirly straws while also learning about core physics principles.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourcanterbury@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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Calling all Kent young chefs ...

ASPIRING young chefs will be tempting taste buds as they compete in the Kent Young Chef Award 2010.

Organised by Produced in Kent, the competition gives secondary school students the chance to flex their culinary muscles.

By designing a main course recipe for two people, created from local and seasonal produce, two lucky winners will earn the chance to cook at a very special event. Julie Monkman, manager of Produced in Kent, said the competition targeted secondary school children to capture their imaginations and prompt an early interest in cooking.

"We had a great response last year, with 184 entries from 47 schools," she said. "This year we needed to find a way to make it bigger and better.

Because of the success of the first event, we've got more sponsors, which is good. It has meant we are able to do a bit more in terms of prizes and our ability to promote the contest."

A winner will be chosen from each age group – years seven to eight and years nine to 11 – and the two winners will have the chance to help design the menu for a charity dinner, to be held in January in aid of Kent Air Ambulance. They will also cook on the night, alongside Claire Wood, head chef at Woods Restaurant in Tunbridge Wells, one of the award's sponsors.

"We think it's a fantastic idea and a great prize. It's an example of how we've developed the competition," Ms Monkman said.

"We decided to add a little incentive, because what we really need to make it successful is for

teachers to get on board. We found that last year, when teachers got involved, we got really great entries and teachers came along to the final cook-off. The school that submits the most entries will get two tickets for the charity dinner."

Produced in Kent is keen to promote the message that buying locally and seasonally is best.

"Supermarkets have created a situation where people can get hold of whatever they want at any time of year, even strawberries in winter. Supermarkets will say they are meeting demand, but we say let's go back to eating locally and seasonally."

Entries for the Kent Young Chef Award must be received before Friday, October 29. Entry forms, recipe criteria and rules can be found online at www.producedinkent.co.uk.



WATCH THIS SPACE: Julie Monkman

Tuition fee hikes 'could deter talented students'

REMOVING the cap on university tuition fees could "create a generation of wasted talent" and push out students from middle-class families.

Representatives at some of the county's universities said they were shocked at Lord Browne's report, which proposed radical reform of the system, and said the right to education needed to be protected. Plans include abolishing the £3,290 a year cap on tuition fees, which could lead to top universities charging up to £20,000.

Despite recommendations by Lord Browne that a levy be paid by those who charge more than £6,000, Lauren Crowley, vice-president (Education) of Kent Union, the student voice for the University of Kent, said this will not stop some putting up fees.

"Oxbridge and the Russell Group universities will put their fees up to the top end of the scale," she said.

"If changes come in, students will be leaving university with at least £35,000 debt in top institutions," she said. "At the moment the average is £20,000-25,000. The middle classes are the ones who would be hit."

"Poorer families are quite well looked-after, but students from middle-class backgrounds are £5,000 more in debt."

She said Kent students would be joining the National Union of Students (NUS) and the University and College Union (UCU) for

a national Fund Our Future demonstration on November 10. Other recommendations are for the interest rate on loans, currently 1.5 per cent, to rise to inflation plus 2.2 per cent; that all students are eligible for flat-rate living-cost loans of £3,750; and unpaid students debts are written off after 30 years instead of 25. Another proposal is that students would not start repaying their debt until their earnings reached £21,000, instead of the current £15,000.

If Government accepts the recommendations they could be introduced from 2012.

Professor Jan Druker, senior pro-vice-chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church University, said it would be hard to avoid increasing fees if the review removes most of the teaching fund, as expected.

"A rise from £3,290 a year to £6,000 is likely to hit families hard," she said. "We have encouraged students who may not have traditionally had the opportunity to continue to higher education to realise their dreams. A rise in fees may be a deterrent to them."

Prof Elaine Thomas, vice-chancellor of the University of the Creative Arts, which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester, said UCA had mixed views.

"A review of higher education funding is necessary and raising tuition fees represents the best way forward," she said. "However, we must make certain that the increase does not stop talented people going to university."

Vice-chancellor of the University of Kent, Prof Dame Julia Goodfellow, said increased graduate contribution was inevitable: "The prices have to be seen in the light of expected massive cuts in the teaching grant."



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YOUR LETTERS

Proud city centre is more like Third World

I am extremely proud of the city of Canterbury, having been born and bred here. But I am writing in the hope that Yourcanterbury can bring some pressure on our authorities.

The city council talks big and achieves little in most cases.

The problem of begging on our streets is well documented.

However, on a trip last week I counted five people selling the Big Issue and lost count of the number of beggars.

That, alongside the number of 'buskers' or street entertainers (what's entertaining about painting yourself silver and standing still?), makes our city look not cosmopolitan as some well meaning councillor probably believes, but merely like some Third World town.

Please have another look at this whoever is responsible and try to restore some dignity to our streets,
Name and address withheld

An inability to solve pothole conundrum

What is going on with our roads?

The county council claims its pothole purge has been a success with dozens of private firms being paid to fill in the canyons that opened up in our roads last winter.

In fact most of the so-called repairs are nothing of the sort; the temporary tarmac fillings are already collapsing.

Some of them on the way into Canterbury have been 'repaired' in such a way that as soon as winter arrives they are almost perfectly designed to ensure they hold water, which freezes, splits the road, and we're back to square one.

I feel many of the contractors are smarter than we think: there's a recession on and they are guaranteeing work for themselves next year as well.

I just don't understand local economics. But I fear neither do the councils.

Hopefully the spending review will make all council departments sit up and take notice.

Donald Smithson, by email

Church fleecing their flock at holy gates

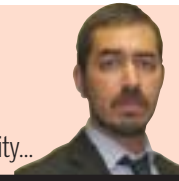
I visited Canterbury for the first time last week and wanted to write and say how much I enjoyed it.

However, while I understand the Church of England's justification for fleecing foreign tourists to look around the magnificent cathedral, I think it's a bit much for someone like me, a regular churchgoer for more than 30 years, to be asked for a shocking £8.

Fortunately for the Archbishop of Canterbury the far more impressive Durham Cathedral is a bit too far to go for the many

yourblogger

Our Simon Robinson covers up his youthful good looks and adopts the 'gringo' look for charity...



Paying lip service to 'Movember' movement

NEXT month hundreds of thousands of men will set their facial hair free for charity.

The four-week Movember fundraiser, which takes its name from the fusion of 'Mo', a slang term for moustache, and November, the month, will see the oft-ridiculed 'tache make a rousing comeback on the top lips of proud participants around the world.

And not a moment too soon, either. For the moustache is at real risk of going into extinction.

The disgraceful descent of the top lip turf began in the 90s and has seen thousands of moustache-wearing men axe their wirey whiskers.

Sadly, these days the noble moustache is misunderstood and utterly underrepresented.

But it wasn't always the case. The heady days of the 80s saw bigshots such as Tom Selleck and Des Lynam champion the cause.

Liverpool FC legend Mark Lawrenson was one of a plethora of football pros who rocked a thick 'tache throughout the decade.

Graeme Souness, Terry McDermott, Chris Kamara, Ruud Gullit and David Seaman were also in the under-nose combing club.

Now Lawrenson, retired, 'tacheless and redundant, is reduced to a role of 'smug know-it-all pundit' (read

git) on Match of the Day. It could have all been very different had you maintained the moustache, Lawro.

So where did it all go wrong?

I blame the rise of male grooming in the 90s. Clean-cut celebrities like David Beckham promoted a waxed, moisturising metrosexual image of man.

This hair-gelled, Lynx reeking ideal all but ended the glorious golden era of the moustache.

But thanks to the rise of the Movember movement, the 'tache is making a comeback, albeit for only 30 days a year.

Last year, more than 250,000 entrants across the globe took part in the charity event, raising £26 million for various cancer charities.

November 2010 looks like drawing more moustache-missing men to the cause.

So you can expect to see 'taches wherever you turn. Your bank manager could be sporting the 'handlebar'. Your bus driver could opt for the 'gringo'.

Admittedly, the 'Hitler' is less likely to make a resurgence, but every movement – including the moustache – is allowed a blot on its copy book, surely?

I am proud to say that I will be among the Movember fundraisers and have already committed to a somewhat unkempt moustached 'look', which my loved ones despise. To sponsor me please visit www.justgiving.com/KOSmovember.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, Gareth Arnold, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Canterbury blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

Japanese, French and German tourists I witnessed being mugged on the gate.

Mrs J B Woodward, Bedford

Condemnation for writer well deserved

Can I please praise letter writer Mrs Boyle for her excellent riposte to C Russell's condemnation of today's parents and his refusal to accept there are children who have needs that are nothing whatsoever to do with how old their parents were when they were born.

The parents of those children with problems like dyslexia or autism, epilepsy or asthma, sight-problems or hearing difficulties must have been insensed to read "it was all their fault".

Can we assume this 'expert' from Ramsgate is a social worker, psychologist or educationist with vast experience of the children he meets in his area or, as Mrs Boyle wrote, "a self-opinionated" person with little understanding of what constitutes 'special needs' and no empathy?

Sorry, C Russell, you can't blame parents for everything when nature or illness or even genetic hiccups produces a child with a 'special need'.

My son's heart condition is not caused by anything his mother did before he was born or in his childhood. It was just one of those things that can happen.

Please don't add to our guilt by

accusing our family of causing this by not bringing him up properly.

Harry Tomkinson, incensed father, by email

Working to stop this vile trade in puppies

Dog welfare charity Dogs Trust is appealing for readers to send them their experiences when purchasing a puppy.

The charity is particularly interested to hear from people who have bought from pet shops, superstores, classified adverts or websites.

These outlets can be supplied by puppy farms where puppies are bred in terrible conditions without any concern for their welfare. As a result many of these puppies suffer health and behavioural problems.

Dogs Trust's 17 rehoming centres across the UK and one in Dublin regularly have puppies handed in to them when owners can no longer cope with the cost and the upset.

Dogs Trust campaigns against the cruel practice of battery farming of dogs and would like to hear about your experiences. Please email stopbatteryfarming@dogstrust.org.uk

Clarissa Baldwin OBE,
Dogs Trust chief executive

Pixie backing fight against shock killer

Tragically hundreds of young people die every year at the prime of their lives from sudden

cardiac death.

That's why I agreed to become a patron for the charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), as these devastating conditions affect so many young people and it's crazy that a seemingly fit and young person can just drop down dead.

I feel it's so important to raise awareness and will be using my new role to spread the word to young people.

Last week was CRY Awareness Week where we paid tribute to the many young people who die from sudden death syndrome.

And with a greater access to cardiac screening we really believe we can help to reduce the number of deaths from this often hidden killer.

For more information about the charity, the work it funds and how to become involved in CRY awareness week, please log on to www.c-r-y.org.uk.

Pixie Lott, singer, CRY Patron

Poor cold water on unfounded facts

Recently Ian Davison (UKIP) criticised a college in Sittingbourne for installing solar panels stating, quite wrongly, that they were wasting money.

He also claimed, again wrongly, that if the college had put the money in the bank they would get nearly £3,000 interest.

I am not sure what bank he uses – the Bank of Mars? – but I do not know a UK bank that

would pay anything like this as most are paying interest below that of the bank base rate, currently at 0.5 per cent.

He also assumes the cost of fossil fuels will stay the same – this again will not happen.

The cost of fuels will rise rapidly as only about three per cent of our fuel comes from re-newables and about 95 per cent comes from fossil fuels which are slowly dwindling – we even import electricity from the nuclear generators in France.

The biggest oil fields are now, or soon will be, in Siberia as well as the majority of the gas fields.

We do not have the nuclear capability to supply our own fuels.

Sittingbourne Community College should be congratulated on such forward-thinking and this will lead them to extensive savings in the future. Loony policy is for all homes to be fitted with upturn dustbin lids to collect water for washing and cleaning and sun power for heating and power.

Sheikh Miliand (aka Jackie Davidson),
Official Monster Raving Loony Party
candidate for Milton Regis

Time to sat ta-ta to the expensive TA

As the search continues for efficiencies, why does the Territorial Army have an establishment of 38,500 – albeit currently recruiting to 28,000?

Only 1,200 have deployed, alongside regulars, each year for the past decade, according to TAQ, the TA's own magazine. Thousands have not been deployed at all and ten per cent have declared themselves unavailable for mobilisation. Similarly, the regular Army claims it needs over 100,000 so it can deploy its contribution to the 9,500 service personnel in Afghanistan. This is plainly nonsense. The TA's role beyond 2015 must be questioned. What will these 28,000 TA soldiers do, other than train and train again? The TA has a huge estate in all the home nations – over 350 establishments. In the same magazine's foreword, the Director (Reserves) admits the TA could be "distributed and positioned more intelligently". Ministers will surely wish to know why that has not been done and why this expensive and inefficient state of affairs has continued.

A smaller TA, reorganised with a reduced estate, must match future defence requirements. The artificially large TA is no longer affordable.

Lester May, by email

Festive cheer comes earlier every year

I have been struck by the amount of Christmas stuff on sale in stores across Sittingbourne – and it is still only October.

Cards I can understand if people have to send them across the world, but decorations and even gifts seem a bit premature.

I like Christmas as much as the next person, but this is overkill.

Brain Hooper, by email

Border crackdown hits criminal gangs

ORGANISED crime is the target of a new drive aimed at protecting Kent's borders and cracking down on immigration offences.

The move follows this summer's Operation Golding, a nationwide campaign where UK Border Agency officers teamed up with the Serious Organised Crime Agency and police to tackle immigration crime including sham marriages, illegal working and bogus colleges. More than 400 operations were carried out, with 800 arrests and £500,000 seized.

Immigration minister and Ashford MP Damian Green said joint work by the agencies will run throughout the year.

"One of the purposes of Operation Golding was to send a signal that Britain is not a soft touch," he said.

Disrupted

Mr Green said problems with immigration and associated crime had got worse in recent years.

Teams targeted and disrupted criminals involved in human and drug trafficking and arms smuggling, arresting and prosecuting them and stripping them of cash and assets. Officers were also stationed at register offices to stop sham weddings.

Home Secretary Theresa May has announced the coalition Government would limit the number of foreign workers to 24,100 – down by five per cent – between now and April 2011 when the policy is fully introduced.

Mr Green said the objective was not to deny talented workers access to the UK but to cut the number of immigrants.

Frightfully good read puts Kent on the ghostly map

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A SELF-PROCLAIMED 'monster hunter' scouring the county for big cats has now taken on something equally sinister.



NEIL ARNOLD

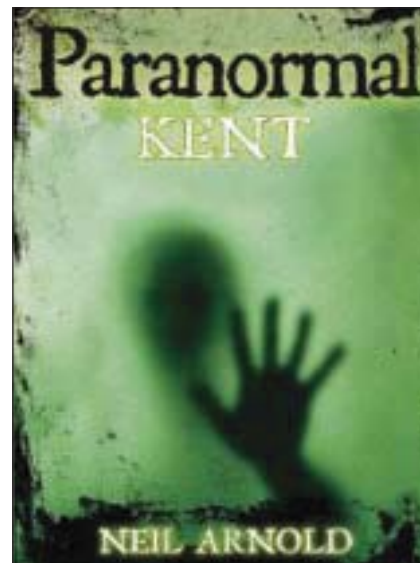
And as with his wild cat research, Neil Arnold's new project is just as likely to come under the scrutiny of sceptics unwilling to believe there is anything mystical out there.

But Mr Arnold, who is an author and full-time researcher on big cats in the wild, said his new book, *Paranormal Kent*, was different from the "friend of a friend" tales usually associated with mythical stories.

"There are so many books where the stories are just regurgitated so someone can make a quick buck," he said. "Everyone's heard the ghost stories of Kent, but after 30 years or so they become a bit stagnant."

"I wanted to look into the history of some of these places, such as Blue Bell Hill with its phantom hitchhiker, but write about things people hadn't heard of."

Mr Arnold, 35, from Rochester, said his book throws light on classic ghostly tales, uncovering sinister secrets of some of the most haunted areas of Kent, while revealing new, never-



WEIRD: Author Neil Arnold's latest spooktacular

before-heard stories.

"Blue Bell Hill is, I believe, the most haunted place in Britain," he said. "For years there were reports of people picking up a girl in their car and she would disappear from the back seat."

"There were also reports of people knocking a

girl down and she would then disappear.

"In 1965 there was a crash on Blue Bell Hill. There were four women in the car and three died, one of whom was a bride-to-be, and people thought it was her."

"But the first report goes back goes back to 1934. After research I found out a girl was murdered in 1916 and I believe it was her people were seeing. The ghost of an old hag has also been reported on Blue Bell Hill. All the reports – there are about 20 to 30 – seem genuine. People had shocked reactions when recalling stories."

Mr Arnold said people in Pluckley, which is believed to be Britain's most haunted village, still don't know all the eerie tales. "I've shed new light on the mysteries of this village," he said.

Strangeness

"Whether a believer or not, there is so much history there is definitely something going on."

"For centuries Kent has been the centre of high strangeness, from monsters in the woods, weird objects in the skies, serpents in the water and ghosts on the road."

Mr Arnold, who started Kent Big Cat Research and gives talks to groups around the South East on large cats said to live in the countryside, said his book also includes tales of eerie creatures such as the winged moth-man in Hythe in the 1960s to serpents and dragons.

Paranormal Kent, £9.99, is Mr Arnold's fourth book after *Mystery Animals of the British Isles: Kent*, *Haunted Rochester* and *Haunted Maidstone*.



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91% of parking fines overturned

HUNDREDS of parking fines issued by "ticket-happy" town halls for petty infringements are being overturned by independent traffic adjudicators.

Figures released by the Traffic Penalty Tribunal Adjudication Service showed in some areas of Kent and Medway up to 91 per cent of drivers contesting Penalty Charge Notices were successful in 2008-09.

The traffic tribunal looks at cases where drivers have received a parking ticket and contested it with the council and lost.

Motorists are then able to appeal to the tribunal where independent lawyers consider the evidence and decide whether the charge should be upheld.

Areas with the highest number of tickets

■ BY MARIJKE COX

overturned in 2008-09 included Medway, where 91 per cent of cases – 328 of the 360 cases – were dropped and the motorist let off.

In Maidstone, 114 of 126 cases – 90 per cent – saw drivers win their appeals, and in Gravesham, 66 per cent – 56 out of 85 – were successful. In Sevenoaks, although only 20 cases were referred to the independent adjudicators, 19 of them were overturned.

Ian Taylor, Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers, said there were some draconian councils that were taking the matter too far.

A Medway Council spokesman argued that the parking measures supported the authority's pledge to reduce congestion and make the area's roads safer to use.

"The vast majority of parking restrictions have been asked for by Medway residents, schools or traders, who are concerned about illegal and inconsiderate parking and their associated safety issues."

Figures for Medway showed in 231 cases of the 360, the council failed to contest the appeal once it went to the traffic tribunal.

The spokesman said: "Medway Council take any mitigating circumstances provided by the motorist into serious consideration, which has had an impact on the number of tickets that are not contested. We have also been much more lenient as we were the first authority to use CCTV enforcement outside London and understood that residents would need some time to adjust to this."

The spokesman said Medway Council pays for an independent adjudication service and is happy to abide by and respect its decision.

"Anyone who feels they have been given a Penalty Charge Notice incorrectly should contact the council in the first instance," he said. "If the appeal is rejected, a further appeal can be made to the Traffic Penalty Tribunal Adjudication Service, which is independent of the council. Its decision is final and binding for both parties."

A spokesman at Sevenoaks Council defended the 95 per cent of cases overturned.

"Out of 9,305 Penalty Charge Notices issued, only 20 were referred to the Traffic Penalty Tribunal by motorists, which indicates the vast majority of notices issued were done so correctly," he said.

For Gravesham, which saw 66 per cent of tickets scrapped, a spokesman said many cases were not contested due to evidence supplied on the appeal which had not been available previously to the council.



Trekker: Archant KOS Media's Paul Stannard in Peru

News boss treks Peru for charity

THE Peruvian adventure is well underway for Archant KOS Media boss Paul Stannard as he begins his trek of one of Unesco's World Heritage Sites.

The 46-year-old, who will be spending nine days in some of the most demanding conditions with some of the most dangerous species of animal in the world, flew out to Peru on Saturday with his group of intrepid explorers.

Mr Stannard, managing director of the publisher of this newspaper, will trek the famous Inca trail to Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas, before being dropped in the Amazon jungle to live alongside the local wildlife for four days.

The trip is in aid of Dave Lee's Happy Holidays, a charity sending sick and deprived children on holiday, and Demelza House, a children's hospice in Sittingbourne providing end-of-life care.

Donation

Mr Stannard funded the trip himself so every penny raised will go to the charities.

Speaking ahead of his trek, he said: "Whatever challenges I face can't be compared to what those poor kids are going through. I've seen what Dave Lee and Demelza do. I feel it's the least I can do to give something back."

To make a donation to Dave Lee's Happy Holidays, go to www.justgiving.com/Paul-Stannard and for Demelza House go to www.justgiving.com/Paul-Stannard0.

People wishing to send in donations can make cheques payable to Dave Lee's Happy Holidays or Demelza House Children's Hospice and send them to Kerry Head at KOS Media Ltd, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS.



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Business Week Live 2010 is different, it has to provide true value to attendees, so this isn't just a turn up and talk event, there are many tough challenges for business to just stay alive let alone develop and innovate. **Business Week Live 2010** aims to provide access to as much helpful advice, tools, expertise and free services for you to tap into.

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Mama Feelgoods

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You can choose your items and basket or box and the staff will lovingly put your bespoke hamper together and wrap it for you.

This year, some products are exclusively available at Mama Feelgoods, as they are now producing a few more of their own goodies. Last year they made gingerbread biscuits to decorate the shop, but lost count of the amount of people who wanted to buy them, so this year they are making extra to sell.

The 'Made by Mama' range also includes booze-laced puddings and iced cakes, mince-meat and pies, chutneys and festive pickles, shortbread and meringues.

When researching their products, they realised some mass-produced items just weren't as good as homemade, so they made them instead.

If you would prefer to make everything yourself, they also stock all the ingredients, from pickling spice to marzipan.

In addition to fine foods, this shop has a lovely range of handmade crafts from the Made in Canterbury group. Many of the items can be personalised for that truly individual gift.

Don't forget the cake craft department, which is full of edible sprinkles and sparkles and all you need to make and decorate a fabulous Christmas cake.

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From succulent tuna steaks to homemade

chicken kiev, pillows of sole to tender meatballs, the main courses offer mouth-watering English classics with an elegant French twist.

The a la carte menu is still also available on Monday to Saturday evenings.

Martins will now be closed all day Sunday and has put the Friday night carvery to bed to facilitate demand for the quality set menu and its monthly offer. So for a warm welcome, friendly service and great food with change to spare, book a table at Martins.

Now open Monday to Saturday evenings from 7pm. (The two for one offer is not available on Saturday evenings.)

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■ Parkview Restaurant

THE popular Parkview Seafood and Steak Restaurant and Lounge Bar in Herne Bay has undergone a major refurbishment.

It now has a spacious new restaurant and bar area and all food served is locally-sourced.

Seafood is caught in the waters off the town, while steaks come from local hand-reared animals.

Specialties include scallops served with sweet chilli salsa. Chef's recommendations include hot Fruits de Mer, a combination

of lobster, mussels, crab claws and king prawns.

T-bone steak is served with chips, garlic mushroom, tomato and homemade beer-battered onion rings.

Sunday roasts include prime matured rib of beef, roast chicken with lemon stuffing and roast port and roast lamb.

All are served with homemade Yorkshire puddings and fresh seasonal vegetables.

Roaring traditional log fires are an added attraction as winter draws in and Christmas bookings are now being taken.



There will also be a New Year's Eve party with tickets at £50 for a buffet, drinks and disco.

"Local produce is the key to the restaurant's mouth-watering menu" is a motto of the venue, which also offers a Tuesday-Thursday club lunch from noon until 3pm. Dishes from £4.95 include cottage pie, spaghetti Bolognese, fish and chips and homemade lasagne.

The restaurant is open from 11am to 11pm with last food order at 9pm from Tuesday to Sunday.

Parkview Seafood and Steak Restaurant and Lounge Bar,
2 Park Rd, Herne Bay, CT6 5SR.
www.theparkviewrestaurant.co.uk

CHEF RECOMMENDS

Grove Ferry

Starter: Pancetta-wrapped fig and goats cheese parcels; Main course: Pan-seared English duck breast served pink with potato gratin, root vegetables and a cherry reduction; Dessert: Cinnamon-infused pancakes, sliced apple, vanilla seed ice cream and apple compote. Telephone: 01227 710661.

Rose and Crown

Starter: Deep-fried Camembert with a port and redcurrant sauce; Main course: Surf and Turf – Sirloin steak and shell-on prawns with salad, mushrooms, onion rings, chips – the full works; Dessert: Hot chocolate fudge cake with pouring cream or ice cream. Telephone: 01227 709265.

Anchor Inn

Starter: Farmhouse pate with onion chutney, toast and a side salad; Main course: Fried chicken breast with a creamy white wine and mushroom sauce served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables; Dessert: Strawberry cheesecake with a forest fruit coulis. Telephone: 01227 721207

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LIVE & LOCAL

Jonathan sings opera

OPERA singer Jonathan Pugsley will be performing a recital at St Leonards Church in Hythe on Saturday, accompanied by pianist Dr Sarah Murphy.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £13 or £5 for students. To book, email jonpugsley@btinternet.com or write to The Larches, Puddletown Road, Wareham BH20 6AE.

Confetti maker's show

FRANK Wurzinger dreams of romance in his new show, The Confetti Maker.

A factory worker pursues his dreams in this humorous and poignant show, which combines slapstick and puppetry.

The show is at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury at 7.45pm on Friday. To book, call 01227 769075 or visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

Explore pride in cinema

ISSUES of sexuality in cinema will be the subject of a talk by University College London lecturer James Agar.

He will talk about predominantly male same-sex desire in world cinema.

The talk is at the Friends Meeting House in Canterbury at 7.45pm on Tuesday and entry costs £3. For details, visit www.prideincanterbury.org.uk.

Marvel-ous creations

LEARN about the complexities of the cartoon world when writer and comic book editor Tim Quinn visits Ramsgate.

Quinn will teach you the tricks of drawing characters like Spider-Man, Iron Man and the Incredible Hulk. The event starts at 7.30pm on Friday and tickets cost £8/£7 for adults and £6 for children. To book, call 01843 591750.

Live film use workshop

LEARN about film and animation use in live performance with a workshop at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

Multi-media performance company Forkbeard Fantasy will lead the workshop, presented by PANeK, from 1pm to 5pm and admission costs £15.

To book, call 01304 239965 or 07962 012822 or email cathy@panek.org.uk.

Acorah makes contact

PSYCHIC Derek Acorah will be attempting to contact the spirit world when he visits Kent this weekend.

The TV medium will be passing on messages at New Beach Holiday Park in Dymchurch on Saturday.

To find out more, call 0845 815 9775 or visit www.derekaacarah.com.

Tentacles' return visit

PSYCHEDELIC band Ozric Tentacles return to Margate next week.

Since forming in 1984, the band has released 28 albums and sold more than a million copies worldwide, without backing from a major label.

They can be seen at the Westcoast on Wednesday, October 27. To book tickets, visit www.westcoastlive.co.uk or email westcoastbar1@aol.com.

Make the most of Kent's coast

KENT COASTAL WEEK

Saturday, October 23 to Sunday, October 31
Various venues



DISCOVER the beauty, diversity and natural wonder of our coastline during Kent's Coastal Week.

Throughout the week there are many exciting activities taking place all along the coast, giving families the chance to learn more about Kent's beautiful marine life and landscapes together. With more than 100 free or subsidised events on offer, the week features something to interest everyone.

In the Canterbury area, activities range from art and photography to historical discovery. This Saturday, adults and children can take part in a number of workshops in Whitstable, including making mosaic tealight holders inspired by beach huts and deckchairs, creating a still-life oil painting, taking part in a photography treasure hunt and making cupcakes with a seaside vibe.

On Sunday, Whitstable Harbour will play host to A Taste of the Sea, which focuses on marine life and sustainable fisheries, with market traders, wildlife stalls and activities, craft stalls and live music.

Children's arts and crafts activities will be held in Reculver on Saturday and volunteers can help with a beach clean at South Swale Nature Reserve on Monday. Next Wednesday, help to set up a strandline survey in Whitstable or visit Reculver to search for strange wildlife beneath the waves in Reculver next Thursday or join a seashore safari next Friday.

Those interested in history can take part in a special walk at Whitstable Castle on Sunday, October 31, marking the 70th anniversary of the fortification of an island nation.

There is also plenty to enjoy in the Dover area, starting this weekend with an event focusing on Lydden Spout and an autumnal coastal walk along Western Heights. Later in the week, people can help to tidy the River Dour, make a bird-feeder at the Discovery Centre, help to create a butterfly habitat at Aycliffe, join a rock-pooling session at St Margaret's Bay and make seashore lanterns at Samphire Hoe on Halloween.

Shepway activities include a family fossil foray at East Cliff and Warren Country Park, making a beach sculpture at Greatstone, scrub-clearing at Hills Reservoir, learning about sand-dune management at Greatstone Dunes, spotting autumn migrating birds at Dungeness RSPB Reserve, children's craft at Romney Marsh Visitor Centre, silk-screen printing at Silk Worm Studios and more.

Swale is also a hub of activity, with workshops about hand-printed papers, making felt and creating sea-inspired artwork at Creek Creative in Faversham.

Activities in Thanet include a performance of The Oyster's Tale by Scandalmongers at



West Bay in Westgate and Walpole Bay in Cliftonville this Saturday. They will also be leading other sessions, including stories, games, art and magic at Dumpton Gap in Broadstairs, Ramsgate Sands, Botany Bay in Kingsgate and Margate Sands during the week.

An expert from the Natural History Museum will lead an exploration of seaweeds at Botany Bay next Thursday, plus creative people can take part in Thanet Coast's Big Draw at Viking Bay on Saturday, October 30.

With a scrub management task, rock walk, rocky shore discovery session, wildlife walk and trip to the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm also on offer, Kent's Coastal Week provides the perfect opportunity to connect with our coastline.

For listings and booking information, pick up a leaflet or visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent.



BY THE SEASIDE: Fun and learning for all ages at Kent's Coastal Week





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25th to 29th October

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28th - 31st October



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WESTERN HEIGHTS MINI OPEN WEEKEND

Saturday, October 23 & Sunday, October 24, Western Heights, Dover

HISTORY comes alive in impressive style at the Western Heights Preservation Society Mini Open Weekend.

The First Foot Guards re-enactment group will be on hand to add period colour to the event, which sheds light on the role of the Western Heights. They are a series of strong points, linked by miles of ditches, on the western hilltop over Dover and form one of Britain's most impressive fortifications.

Their construction during the American War of Independence and they were strengthened during the Napoleonic Wars,

then again in the mid-19th Century.

During the open weekend, visitors will have rare access to parts of the Drop Redoubt fortress and the Grand Shaft, a unique 19th-century triple staircase. Access to the fort is not possible for wheelchairs, prams or pushchairs.

Admission to the Grand Shaft is free and entry to the Drop Redoubt costs £2.50 for adults and is free for accompanied children. All proceeds will go back into the preservation of the fort.

To find out more, visit www.doverwesternheights.org.



THE KNICKER LADY

Saturday, October 3, Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs

FROM bloomers to Y-fronts, The Knicker Lady can provide an intimate guide to the history of underwear.

Rosemary Hawthorne's hit show takes the audience on a hilarious journey through the evolution of the knicker, entertaining and captivating them at the same time. Both male and female garments go under the spotlight in this high-tempo show that exposes the humble bikini, boxer and thong to the cold light of day.

With 250 years' worth of precious pants to rustle through, Hawthorne also brings to life the

colourful characters who wore them, from the elegant ladies of Jane Austen's England to the feisty suffragettes and the flappers of the roaring 20s.

Presenting the show in her own enigmatic style, Hawthorne leaves no brief left unturned in her quest to expose the history of the knicker.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10 for Sarah Thorne Theatre Club members or £12 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance. Call the box office on 0845 262 6263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

PEGGY SEEGER

Wednesday, October 27, The Chimney Boy, Faversham



FAVERSHAM Folk Club welcomes one of the genre's finest female artists next week.

American singer and multi-instrumentalist Peggy Seeger has impressive family connections within the folk world. Born in 1935, she is the daughter of Ruth Crawford Seeger, a composer who was the first woman to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship, and half-sister to fellow folk artist Pete Seeger. She married and had three children with Ewan MacColl, inspiring him to write the classic love song, The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face.

From 1959 onwards, the couple worked together to promote the burgeoning UK folk revival, hunting for little-known traditional songs from the UK and US and training other singers to be part of political-musical documentary theatre. They also instigated the revolutionary Radio Ballad form, an audio documentary format that uses four elements of sound.

MacColl died in 1989, but Seeger has continued to be one of folk's most respected artists. She has made 22 solo recordings and performed with more than 100 other artists.

The concert starts at 8.30pm and tickets cost £10. For more information, call 01795 536857.



HALLOWEEN AT DOVER CASTLE

Monday, October 25 to Sunday, October 31, Dover Castle

FROM freaky 'feely boxes' to sinister spooks, there is lots of creepy fun going at Dover Castle this half-term.

Join a ghost tour with creepy Victorian mediums, Nora Sidgwick and Frederic Myers, who will lead the way into some of the castle's darkest corners. Visitors should prepare to come face to face with the ghosts who still stalk the corridors, including the ghoulish Phantom Drummer Boy. The tragic lad was ambushed and killed in the 18th Century, yet people say that his spirit can still be spotted on the battlements and his haunting drum can still be heard echoing in the night.

Anyone who is feeling brave can attempt to pass through the Tunnel of Terror, complete with cobwebs and the horrible feely boxes, into which courageous visitors must plunge their hands.

Every day there will be a competition to find the best fancy dress among visiting children, so make sure you dress to impress. There is also plenty for all the family to discover in the Great Tower, along with the fascinating Roman Lighthouse and battlements.

For more information on Dover Castle's event, visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/dovercastle.



LDN WRESTLING

Sunday, October 24, Winter Gardens, Margate



STARS of the wrestling ring return to Margate this weekend for more rumbles against the ropes.

The Winter Gardens will host the season finale of Sky TV's LDN Wrestling, giving fans the chance to experience all the thrilling action live. With three title matches on the bill, spectators of all ages can look forward to exhilarating entertainment for all the family.

For the first time in three years, a trio of titles will be decided on Sunday – the British Heavyweight Championship, the Capital Championship and the Tag Team Championship.

Team Hate takes on Planet Future in the tag team contest, while LDN British Heavyweight Champion Jon 'The Don' Ritchie squares up to Capital Wrestling Champion, Travis.

Big names such as 'Wrestling Politician' Richard Parliament, 'Polish Powerhouse' Wolf Alexander, 'Blackbelt' Tom Dawkins and the Bulldozer will be taking part in an eight-man elimination survivor series contest, to battle it out for the title King of the Ring.

The first bell rings at 5pm and tickets cost £10/£9. To book, call 01843 296111/292795 or visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.



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parties available before and after the session
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parties available 4.30pm - 5.30pm
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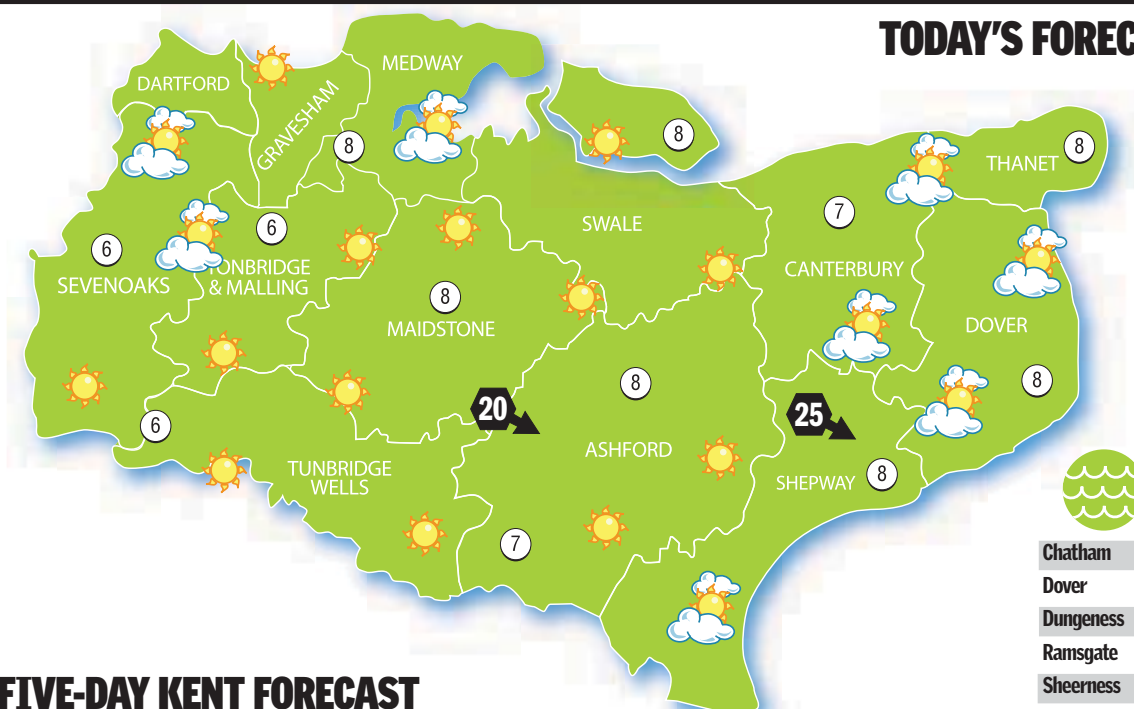
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AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	12°C	Madrid	14°C
Athens	19°C	New York	19°C
Barcelona	16°C	Paris	12°C
Beijing	8°C	Rome	16°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	23°C
Cape Town	21°C	Tenerife	24°C
Cardiff	13°C	Tokyo	22°C
Gibraltar	21°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	3°C
Las Palmas	24°C	Wellington	14°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:40pm 5.9m	Sunday	2:12pm 6.0m
Dover	Saturday	11:51am 6.5m	Sunday	12:18pm 6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:58am 7.6m	Sunday	12:29pm 7.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:21pm 5.0m	Sunday	12:48pm 5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:30pm 5.7m	Sunday	2:02pm 5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:37pm 5.2m	Sunday	2:09pm 5.3m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Whitstable																	Saturday	13/pm 5.
Ashford	13°C	8°C	11°C	13°C	13°C	Dover	12°C	8°C	10°C	12°C	12°C	Gravesend	13°C	9°C	11°C	13°C	13°C	Sevenoaks	11°C	7°C	9°C	11°C	11°C	
Canterbury	12°C	8°C	10°C	12°C	12°C	Faversham	13°C	10°C	12°C	13°C	13°C	Maidstone	13°C	9°C	11°C	13°C	13°C	Sittingbourne	13°C	10°C	12°C	13°C	13°C	
Chatham	13°C	10°C	12°C	13°C	13°C	Folkstone	12°C	8°C	10°C	12°C	12°C	Ramsgate	12°C	8°C	10°C	12°C	12°C	Tonbridge	13°C	7°C	10°C	12°C	12°C	
Dartford	13°C	9°C	11°C	13°C	13°C	Gillingham	13°C	10°C	12°C	13°C	13°C	Rochester	13°C	10°C	12°C	13°C	13°C	Tun Wells	13°C	7°C	10°C	12°C	12°C	



SUNRISE 7:28am SUNSET 5:52pm



MOONRISE 4:29pm MOONSET 4:42am



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WIN! Tickets to Quex Bonfire and Fireworks

DON'T miss out on this great opportunity to take your family to a spectacular night of fire and fireworks.

Kent Events will be holding their third annual Bonfire and Fireworks event at Quex Park, Birchington, on Saturday, November 6.

This year the event will be in support of Demelza House and other locally based charities and organisations.

The evening kicks off at 4pm, with a huge bonfire being lit from 6.30pm and a brilliant firework display from 7.30pm.



In addition to a funfair, licensed bar and various refreshment outlets stalls, there will live entertainment from Hullabaloo, who perform a blend of jazz, jive, swing, and an original twist on pop.

The full 20-minute firework display is provided by local company Theatrical Pyrotechnics and will take place in front of Quex Manor House.

Having listened to the feedback of visitors in previous years, organisers Kent Events are hoping to once again raise a 40ft bonfire thanks to the help of sponsors Fuji-Film Sericol who have provided all the materials.

Kent Events co-director Carol Dutton said: "Our third firework event at Quex is set to be bigger and better than before, we are proud to be the providers of what is becoming such a high profile event and would like to thank all our sponsors and supporters for helping to make this possible."

Tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £5

child (under 13), if purchased in advance, children under 3 are free are available from www.kentevents.org.uk, through www.wherewecanwego.com or locally at The Quex Barn or The Secret Garden. Alternatively, they can be purchased on the night when adults are £7 and under 13s £6.

This year the event will also have a limited number of Landeez All Terrain wheelchairs, these must be booked in advance of the night and secured by a non-refundable deposit of £5, which is donated to the charity to enable the chairs to be maintained.

Please contact the organisers to arrange.

Would all visitors please note, the event is held within the meadow field of Quex Park and therefore appropriate footwear must be worn. Please no pets, personal fireworks, alcohol or picnic tables.

Archant KOS Media are proud sponsors of Bonfire and Fireworks at Quex.

For your chance to win one of four family tickets (two adults and two children) just answer the simple question below.



Question: Which group are singing at the event at Quex this year?

Send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Quex Bonfire Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. The closing date is Friday, October 29.

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

For the purposes of the prize, children are aged three to 13. All attractions are weather dependent. If inclement weather occurs, the event may be postponed 24 hours, please refer to our terms and conditions displayed on our website www.kentevents.org.uk for full details.



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INSIDE THIS WEEK

STEVE LOADER

BUSINESS EDITOR TELEPHONE: 01303 817029
EMAIL: steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Giant shopping mall Bluewater could be worth around £1.7 billion according to the price tag on a 75 per cent stake being offered for sale.

Hermes Real Estate, a long-running but minority shareholder in the project since it opened ten years ago, is selling its holding valued at £120 million after deciding to re-balance its property portfolio at a time when the Kent site is regularly outperforming a depressed retail sector.

FORMER brewing giant Whitbread – now better known for its restaurants to hotels portfolio – will open a new £1.3 million Premier Inn hotel in Rainham High Street on November 1.

The new site alongside Whitbread's existing Manor Farm Beefeater Grill, will offer 26 bedrooms from £58 per night and has created 15 new jobs across housekeeping and reception.

ONE man band businesses must not be spooked as the Halloween deadline looms for filing paper Self Assessment tax returns.

That's the advice from the South East Society of Chartered Accountants, which points out that the tax man will only apply penalties – starting with an automatic £100 – and mounting interest charges for the year ending April 5, 2010, if they still subsequently file a paper return. However, an electronic online return buys a further three months' leeway to January 31.

KEY PARTNERS

SUPPORTED BY



KRBS is aiming to pour all its savings into One

BY STEVE LOADER

ONE of Britain's oldest surviving building societies is set to disappear in a merger to create a new banking force, OneSavings.

Kent Reliance (KRBS) can trace its roots back to 1847 and is a rare example of the nation's once thriving mutual (member-owned) sector, but now aims to pool its £2.2 billion assets with American private equity firm JC Flowers, which will invest £50 million and gain a 40 per cent stake in the new bank.

Approval

The motivation for KRBS – ranked 11th in the UK by asset value – stems from the Northern Rock crash in 2007, which made it harder for traditional mutual societies to raise or attract cash to build their businesses.

City experts believe JC Flowers aims to use this situation to woo other small societies to build OneSavings and challenge traditional banking players Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds TSB and RBS NatWest and the increasingly powerful Spanish-owned Santander.

The conviction gathered strength with the American firm's recent hiring of the former head of the UK's fourth biggest building society, the Skipton.

John Goodfellow ran the Yorkshire society for 17 years and says he is acting as an advisor on the mutual sector, while strenuously denying his former employer is in the US firm's sights.

JC Flowers' founder Christopher Flowers – a former partner in American banking and finance firm Goldman Sachs – made abortive moves on Northern Rock, Friends Provident, and Bradford and Bingley, before succeeding with KRBS.

But the plans must still be ratified by the Financial Services Authority and, more importantly in this instance, gain approval from 75 per cent of Kent Reliance savers and borrowers under the old mutual society structure.

Members will be balloted and the result announced at a special meeting of the society on November 19. A 'yes' vote will allow the new bank to be created in February, 2011.

Member reaction has been muted since the proposals were released in August and it is likely that dissent will be mollified by breaking news this week that the JC Flowers' stake had been cut from 49 to 40 per cent and confirmation that KRBS would retain control.

But the biggest hurdle is likely to be that, unlike the rash of building society de-mutualisations in the 1990s, no windfall payments are being tabled to entice members to agree to this scheme.

'Liabilities'

KRBS has some 180,000 members and 45 staff and has been one of the fastest-growing building societies in the country over the past decade, while slashing overheads.

Fourteen outlets have been cut to eight and only two are now full branches – Chatham and Hempstead – with CEO Mike Lazenby happy to brand traditional branches as "liabilities".

As it has pruned profile on Kent high streets, KRBS has sought it elsewhere through sponsorship of football clubs Gillingham, Charlton Athletic and Whitstable Town.

BUSINESSWEEKLive

...timed to make sense of the spending review

BUSINESSES in Kent have mixed emotions ahead of today's Comprehensive Spending Review by the Government – relief that the UK debt mountain is being tackled, but fears for confidence, trade and jobs.

And there will be many questions and challenges raised – ones that Business Week Live (BWL) aims to answer on Wednesday, November 10, in three weeks time.

Billed as an essential event for business owners, entrepreneurs and managers, BWL has been created by Archant KOS Media.

Delegates and visitors already registered include MDs, CEOs, FDs and many other directors and managers from all business sectors, representing companies from SMEs to larger private and public organisations and agencies.

Archant KOS Media commercial director Christine Davidson said: "The appeal is BWL's offer of true value to attendees at a crucial time in their planning process; post CSR and prior to the crunch year of 2011 – everyone and their businesses needs to know where the opportunities will be.

"In addition to sourcing suppliers and partners, visitors will get free access to a conference programme and workshop of more than 20 speakers. All delegates attending the inspirational manager session presented by Neil Annis will walk away with access to more than £2,500 of training resource.

And Kent Business School is providing a free Business Clinic during the show.

Companies can book a 30-minute slot with a clinic team comprising MBA (Master of Business Administration) students, MBA alumni and MBA academics.

MBA students have an average of ten years' management experience here and abroad: "No hard-pressed firm can really pass up on the chance of brainstorming their company problems with such experts when just one good tip could save their company," said Davidson.

Other hot topics include:

• **Getting investment:** hear Phil Bevean, portfolio director for the Kent and Medway Innovation Team, and Liz Dolding, partner and commercial legal expert from Warners Solicitors, tell you how to turn your ideas into profitable business.

• **Going digital:** apps, stats, vids, mobiles and the web – what does it all mean for business? Come and hear from leading expert Jonnie Jensen, who has more than ten years' experience in the sector with leading companies such as Lycos Europe.

• **Inspirational management:** Neil Annis has more than 20 years' experience in operational management, sales, change management, training & coaching, personal and organisational development.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

• READYING INVESTMENT...

How to catch your dragon

• DIGITAL REVOLUTION...

What's in it for business?

• TWEET, GREET AND NETWORK...

Is social media like Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn worth the investment?

• WIN THE WAR FOR TALENT...

Getting the best staff

• MANAGE AND INSPIRE...

It doesn't have to be a secret

• MAKING 'BRICKS AND CLICKS' STICK...

Multi-channel marketing

• THE BIG DEBATE...

What will be the role of business in the 'Big Society'?

For more details log on to www.businessweeklive.co.uk

• **Multi-channel marketing:** it can seem daunting and complex, but leading specialist Ben Edwards can navigate you to the benefits for your business and profits.

• **And join the big debate:** David Cameron launched the 'Big Society' to empower communities to run post offices, libraries, transport services and shape housing projects. What are the implications of this for businesses, and how can they be involved? Come and join a

panel session with leading experts from local business and social enterprise.

Exhibiting companies leading the line-up for Wednesday, November 10 at the County Showground, Detling include BT, East Malling Conference Centre, IPS international, KCC Low Carbon Futures, Kent FA, Kent Science Park, Manston Airport, Medway Safety, NatWest, University of Greenwich, Village Hotels, The Kent Foundation, Circatron and Comcheck.

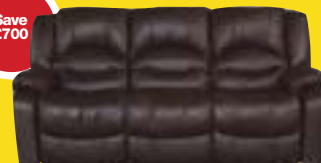
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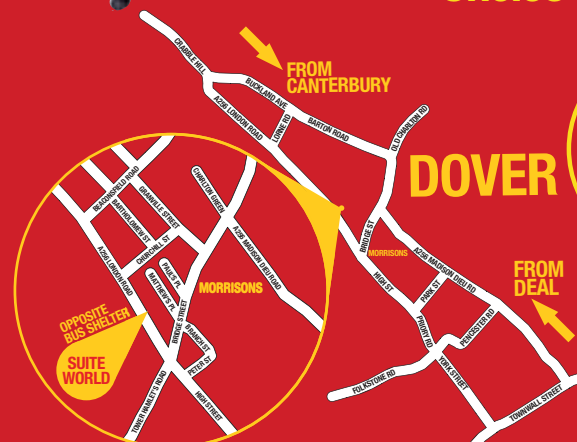
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Dover High Street remain
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We are 50 yards up on
the right hand side.Chairs
Was £999
Now £499Lilly by Florence collection sofa.
3 seater. Was £1999**Now £999**
Choice of 20 leather colours & 10 woodsIncredible
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or 3 seater & 2 seater
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Choice of coloursUnbeatable
PriceEthan corner suite. Left or right
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Online Face-off falls a little flat as it takes on big-screen status

■ BY DAMON SMITH

ON JULY 21 this year, social networking site Facebook proudly welcomed its 500 millionth user to the online fold.

It's a mind-boggling statistic, even more so when you consider that seven years ago, no-one had heard of the site. Indeed, it didn't exist.

In less than a decade, an idea born in the hallowed corridors of Harvard University has quite literally taken over the world and changed the way we communicate.

As one of the characters in The Social Network, David Fincher's expertly crafted film about the creation of the site, quips: "Bosnians – they don't have roads but they have Facebook."

Turbulent

Like all good ideas, the site has made its creators very wealthy, but as Ben Mezrich's book The Accidental Billionaires chronicled, the turbulent history of Facebook led to not just one but two lawsuits.

Working from a screenplay by Aaron Sorkin, Fincher employs a fractured chronology to dissect the jealousy and betrayal which underpinned the success of the site.

The Social Network opens by introducing central protagonist Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg), a computer nerd whose lack of social skills become apparent as he is deservedly dumped by his girlfriend (Rooney Mara).

In revenge, Mark spews bile in an online blog then creates a crude website called facemash.com, which racks up "22,000 hits in two hours" and brings the nerd to the attention of

Divya Narendra (Max Minghella) and the Winklevoss twins (Armie Hammer), who want Mark to program their internal social networking site called HarvardConnection.

Soon after, Mark approaches friends Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield), Dustin Moskovitz (Joseph Mazzello) and Chris Hughes (Patrick Mapel) with an almost identical idea.

The whole campus excitedly logs on and the friends expand to Stanford and eventually across the Atlantic, before Sean Parker (Justin Timberlake), the entrepreneur behind Napster, becomes involved and offers Mark his advice.

"Drop the 'The'. Just Facebook. It's cleaner."

Flawless

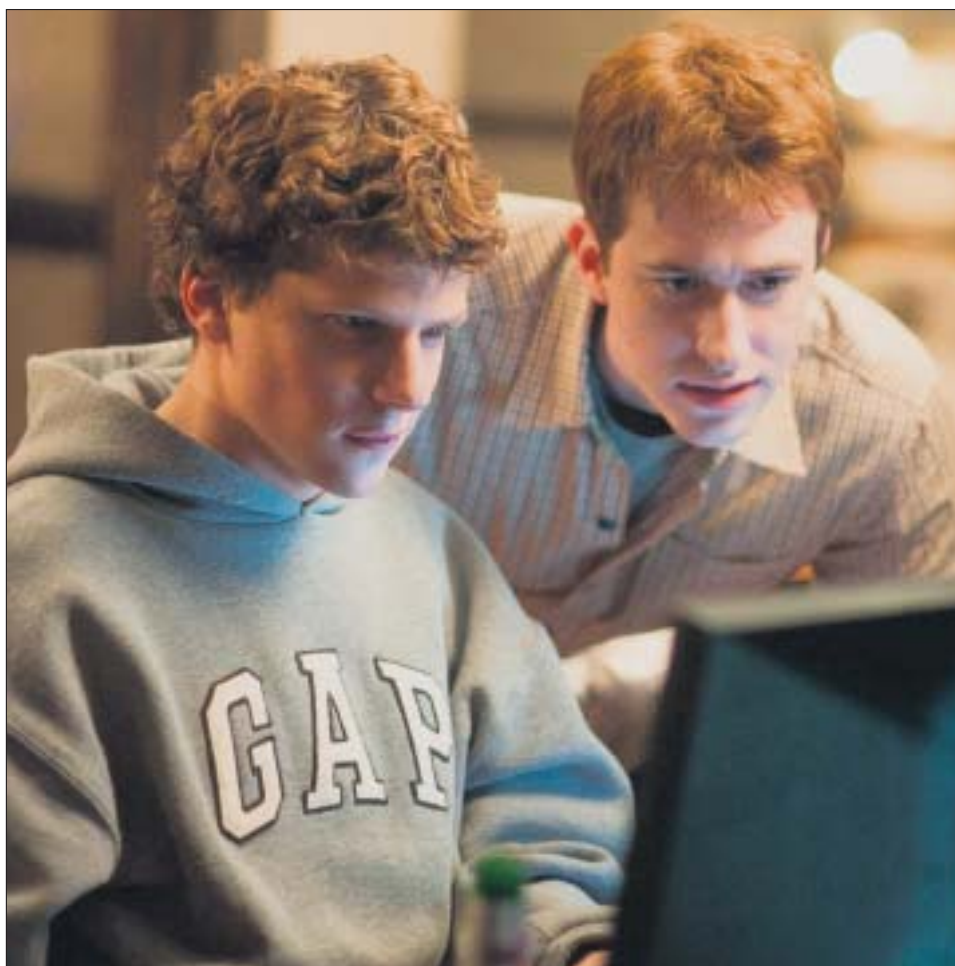
The Social Network is technically flawless, powered by Fincher's dazzling direction, including a bravura rowing sequence at Henley Regatta set to a reworking of Grieg's In The Hall Of The Mountain King.

Sorkin's screenplay is equally polished – so much so that characters speak without hesitation or pause for thought, which strains credibility, even at one of America's most revered seats of learning.

Eisenberg's compelling, one-note performance fails to reveal any chinks of humanity beneath Zuckerberg's thick skin.

Indeed, to the final frame, the character is an emotionally cold and unsympathetic loner, which leaves us with no-one to root for as the legal battle turns nasty.

Garfield is much more likeable and when he vows revenge against Mark, seething, "I'm not coming back for 30 per cent, I'm coming back for everything", it's the closest we come to a rush of adrenaline.



FACING FACTS: Jesse Eisenberg as Mark Zuckerberg and Joseph Mazzello as Dustin Moskovitz make online history in The Social Network

THE SOCIAL NETWORK
Certificate 12A 

PICTURE: PA PHOTOSNY PICTURES RELEASE (UK)



HEIRS AND GRACES: Intrigue and polite conversation over dinner at Downton Abbey



YOUR TV REVIEW DOWNTON ABBEY: ITV, 9pm, Sunday

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

FOR a highbrow insight into the dying days of the British aristocracy, and a stonking period drama to boot, Downton Abbey is the one to watch.

ITV's newest costume drama is set in a great country house in 1912. It details many of the upstairs-downstairs dichotomies prevalent in state-homes at the time.

The first introduction we have to the house is finding that the Duke of Grantham's two heirs have been wiped out by the sinking of the Titanic. It soon becomes clear the next in line to the title and estate is not one of its well-bred inmates but a distant middle-class relative who works as a lawyer in Manchester (a concept still alien to the aristocracy).

One of the fortés of this drama is that it doesn't shy away from the bigoted attitudes of the time in favour of a light-hearted story.

Many of those inside Downton, servants and family alike, are quick to condemn the new heir and his mother for being 'not our sort of people'.

The Duke of Grantham's (Hugh Bonneville) quiet and noble new valet John Bates (Brendan Coyle) has a limp due to a shrapnel injury picked up in the Boer War, and he is treated as a drain on resources by footmen and maids.

The blatant and accepted discrimination makes the watcher feel proud of modern political correctness and disability compliance laws.

The gay footman being treated as a guilty, disposable secret by his titled lover makes today's society seem far more advanced by comparison.

The drama has a stellar cast

including Maggie Smith, known to younger viewers as Professor McGonagall from Harry Potter, costume drama veteran Hugh Bonneville and Brendan Coyle, lately of Lark Rise to Candleford.

The plot and dialogue are both compelling, as are the more seasoned actors and actresses, of which there are many.

Although less practised, the younger cast members put in admirable performances and add freshness to what could otherwise have been a stuffy show.

The story follows both the aristocratic family and the servants, ensuring plenty of promising storylines to follow.

An understated and intriguing drama, if Downton Abbey continues in the same vein it will have me hooked all series.

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yourmusic

Your chance to sing the blues



DON'T FRET: The Battle of the Blues contest is seeking talented jazz musicians

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

BLUES bands are being invited to take part in a nationwide talent search which will see the UK's top unsigned act being flown out to Canada to perform at a world-renowned festival.

The Battle of the Blues contest is being led by the Canadian province of New Brunswick, which is offering the overall winner the opportunity of performing at the Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival in Fredericton in September, 2011.

Competition organiser Lisa Gagnon appealed for the county's top jazz and blues stars to put their name forward.

She said: "The Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival is looking for new international talent to add to their line-up for 2011 and we feel the UK has a lot to offer in the way of exceptional blues musicians."

"We want to tap into the blues scene and find some real gems."

Entry to the first stage of the competition is via YouTube. The deadline for applicants is Friday, December 17.

Successful musicians will then be selected to perform at a one-night battle of the bands-style heat at The New Crawdaddy Blues Club in Billericay, Essex, on Thursday, January 27.

The regional winners will travel to London for the final to be held on Tuesday, March 29, and judged by a panel of blues greats.

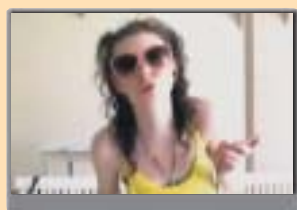
Regional runners-up will be put to a public vote and the public choices will also get to perform on the London stage.

But there can only be one outright UK winner and they must prove they can produce new and original work and they must be unsigned.

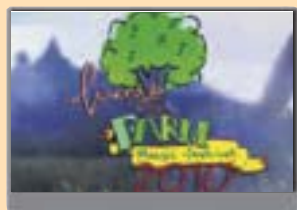
For more information about the competition, visit www.tourismnewbrunswick.co.uk.

UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC VIDEOS TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE @

yourkenttv.co.uk



BEING POLITE: Singer Kayleigh Phillips performs her new song The Polite Way



MUSIC FESTIVAL: A montage from this year's Lounge on the Farm



BAND PRACTICE: Zinta Egle and her band play Love With No Love



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Promise Me Tomorrow - 23/10 The Railway, Deal
- 2 The Tyrant - 25/10 Lanterns, Folkestone
- 3 Happy Daze - 30/10 Canterbury Conservative Club
- 4 Houdini - 4/11 Earls, Maidstone
- 5 Third Place Victory - 5/11 Wired Headline, Margate



OSTEND OF THE LINE: Monuments commemorate Ostend's military history while its impressive tramway provides inter-European links

yourgetaways

Why not soak up the heart and soul of Flemish city life

■ BY NICK AMES

BEER, chocolates and trams together with a large part of the history of the two world wars are immediately associated with our neighbour across the water, Belgium.

So is classical-style architecture, good food and art.

But soul music?

The resort of Ostend boasts numerous attractions, including access to the world's largest tram network, which covers the entire Belgian coast from the French to the Dutch border.

There is even a display in a seafront museum dedicated to the history of this form of transport, with vintage rolling stock – which has served the country for 125 years. In the centre of the attractive town is a museum dedicated to the weird and wonderful satirical works of James Ensor, who satirised the ruling classes in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

A walk through the town with an iPod provided by the local tourist board is an illuminating way of looking at his inspirations.

Nearby is a section of the German Atlantic Wall which was built to defend the occupied country against the expected Allied invasion.

The Germans abandoned it though as the British, Americans and Canadians advanced from the south and it is now among the best preserved examples of the military of the Third Reich anywhere in the world.

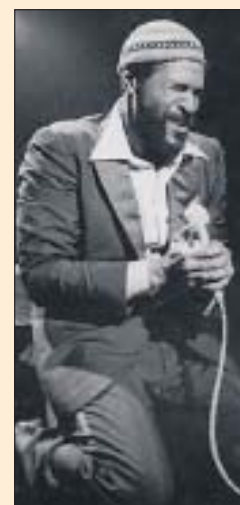
But Ostend has a very interesting former resident – more usually associated with Detroit than Flanders.

On the advice of Belgian concert promoter Freddy Cousaert, soul legend Marvin Gaye (pictured) moved to the town in February 1981 where for a time he cut down on drugs and began to get back in shape both physically and emotionally.

FACT FILE: OSTEND

Time difference	+One hour (GMT)
Language	French, Flemish, English
Population	69,000
Currency	Euro
Religion	Roman Catholic

LD Lines/Transeuropa Ferries operate four return sailings daily between Ramsgate and Ostend. Short break fares start from £78 return for a car and two passengers and Autumn Break fares from £59 single for a car and up to nine passengers. For information and to book: www.ldlines.com or call 0844 576 8836. Ostend Tourism Visitor information: www.toerisme-ostende.be or email: info@toerisme-ostende.be or call: 00 32 (0) 59 70 11 99. Further short break and online reservations available via: www.specialoffers-ostende.be. Also for Ostend/Flanders information: www.visit-flanders.com.



He was also in a little bit of trouble with the tax authorities back home.

While in Belgium, Gaye began to make plans to renew his declining fortunes in his professional career, starting with a tour he titled The Heavy Love Affair Tour in England.

The tour ended with two concert dates in Ostend. A documentary leading up to his Belgian concert performances titled Transit Ostend was initially released to just Belgian fans, and was later issued in bootleg copies following Gaye's death.

"Marvin was a special man, very distinguished, very impressive, but it was like Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde," said Monique Licht, an independent film producer in Belgium who worked with Gaye on a 30-minute film for Belgian television, 1981's Marvin Gaye: Transit Ostend.

"At times, he was like an elegant zombie walking along the beach in Ostend," said Ms Licht. "He was there, but at the same time he was not there."

"He was happy alone in front of

the sea. In my opinion, he should have stayed in Ostend. I don't understand why he went back to the States. If he had stayed, he might still be alive today."

Those who knew the soul star in the town say it is the sort of place where visitors are left alone but welcomed whenever they seek company. Ostend has been welcoming visitors from Britain for years and English is widely spoken.

The streets are thronged with restaurants and bars, with the local beer among the best in the world.

As well as the art and culture, the town boasts excellent shopping opportunities and a thriving arts scene.

Railways connect it to the rest of Europe and the marina, with its tall ship, is spectacular.

And it has one mystery connected with its music legend.

Everyone says the piano on which Gaye composed Sexual Healing is around. But no-one knows exactly where it is.

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MOTORS NEWS



Used Mondeo currently most affordable Ford

WHAT Car? has named the diesel Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Zetec hatchback Used Car of the Year 2010.

Just £8,600 buys a 2007 model with all the kit and space a family will ever need – a saving of more than £10,000 on a new Ford Mondeo.

The magazine's editor Steve Fowler said: "It's a comfortable cruiser for covering motorway miles, yet it's still great fun to drive and makes an extremely capable family car. There's loads of cabin space, plus it's solid and well put together."



Record-breaking Passat keeps going on and on

VOLKSWAGEN'S Passat BlueMotion (from £19,365) has set a new Guinness World Record for the longest distance travelled by a standard production passenger car on a tank of fuel.

The three-day record bid started from Maidstone and went to the South of France and almost made it back; the Passat finally ran out of fuel close to Calais after covering 1,526.63 miles, averaging nearly 90mpg – 50 per cent better than its claimed average – and averaging 45 mph, all from 77.25 litres of diesel.



Extra E is the greenest

SEAT'S greenest Ecomotive models will be even easier to spot under a new badge structure.

To coincide with the UK launch of the all-new seven-seat Alhambra MPV – which boasts a class-leading 'green' version – and the arrival of the latest generation Ibiza Ecomotive supermini with emissions slashed to a road tax-exempt 92g/km, the VW-owned Spanish marque has come up with the E Ecomotive badge (pictured) to denote models with the ultimate eco-friendly spec, while the simple Ecomotive label continues on those with a reduced green shading.



LITTLE WONDER: Suzuki's Jimny is an acquired taste on the road, but its long travel suspension gives it excellent off-road ability for a fraction of the cost of its larger rival 4x4s

Off-roading downsized

ROAD TEST SUZUKI JIMNY

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

you might expect, but it is fidgety – don't buy a Jimny just for posing.

Those riding in front get a decent deal and the high driving position is superb for such a compact car, but the rear seats are really suitable only for kids and the boot is minimalist.

There is also no choice of engine and though the little 85bhp 1,328cc petrol engine and low gearing delivers good off-roading, the Jimny is one of the slowest cars you can buy.

However, the gears and steering are crisp so you can enjoy piloting this little workhorse around with an average economy around 40mpg and it will cruise at 70mph, though the cabin is noisy.

Fixtures and fittings are as durable and functional as you might expect on this type of car, though the indicator stalk is mounted on the right – most of us now prefer a Continental-style mounting on the left.

Buy it for the right reasons though and the Suzuki is unbeatable and indestructible.

Most of the time you can run in economical two-wheel drive, via the rear axle, but hit the '4WD' and even the low ratio '4WDL' button for extra purchase.



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10 Plate Skoda Octavia 1.4 SE TSI

Alloys, Air Con, Aqua Blue. **ONLY £12,995***

10 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.4 TDI Sport

16" Alloys, Air Con, Privacy Glass, Sports Pack, Under 2000 miles, Only £35 per year road tax. **ONLY £9,495***

10 Plate Skoda Fabia 2, 1.4 TDI

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Used Cars

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Leather Trim, Highland Green Metallic, Air Con, 61,500 miles. £7,995*

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Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £6,995

03 Plate Skoda Octavia 1.8 T Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Admiral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 12,403 miles. Was £4,995. **Now £4,495***

09 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.2 Estate

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58 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,995*

07 Plate Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Flamenco Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 13,295 miles. £6,995*

08 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Storm Blue Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 26,875 miles. £6,495*

06 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDI Elegance Estate

Red with Black Cloth interior, FSH, 51,768 miles. £6,495*

54 Skoda Fabia 1.4 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 52,174 miles. £4,995

54 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 48,500 miles. £3,995*

03 Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 81,500 miles. £2,995*

58 Plate Skoda Roomster 1.9 TDI

Silver with Black Cloth interior, 11,000 miles. £10,795*

58 Plate Skoda Roomster Scout 1.6 16v, Automatic

Corrida Red, Top of The Range, 14,500 miles. £9,495*

Other Makes

2008 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equippe 4-Door Saloon

Finished in Metallic Gunmetal Grey, Manual, 21,800 miles. £7,995*

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Finished in Blue Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 50,500 miles. £6,995 **Now £6,495***

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Silver, FSH, 1 owner from new, 16,190 miles. £6,495*

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Finished in Astral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,430 miles. £4,495*

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*Correct at time of going to press.

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SE 4 DOOR
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Midnight black met, black cloth interior-aircon-6
speed manual-c/d player-alloys-front fogs-multi air
bags-alarm and immobiliser-e/w-smart satnav- one
owner from new-t/s/h **£5995**

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TOYOTA MR2
ROADSTER VVTI
CONVERTIBLE
LTD EDITION 1.8
Citrus met-black leather interior-aircon-ltd ed alloys-
multi air bag-upgraded stereo system-alarm & immo-
biliser-e/w-rarely available in ltd ed colour-service
history **£5495**

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LANCE 5 DOOR
HATCH
Sunset red-black cloth interior-aircon-rear parking
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fogs. Very well looked after, fun to drive with great
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1.6 AUTOMATIC
VVTI DYNAMIQUE
28K FSH
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start system-alarm & immobiliser-c/c-front fogs-auto
wiper system-1 owner from **£6495**

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KA 1.3 COLLEC-
TION 2 3 DOOR
HATCHBACK
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protection-a super little runaround with only 56k-
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CLUB 5 DOOR
HATCHBACK
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multi air bags-cd player-multi function steering
wheel-alarm and immobiliser-e/w-t/s/h and only one
owner from new offered at only **£4995**

2006/06 PLATE
FORD FOCUS 1.6
LX 5 DOOR
in flint grey metallic with contrasting black cloth
interior-air conditioning-remote control central lock-
ing-electric windows-multi air bag protection system-
drivers seat height adjustment-c/d at only **£4995**

2004/54 PLATE
VOLKSWAGEN
BEETLE TDI
DIESEL 3 DOOR
Stardust met silver-black cloth interior-aircon-heated
front seats-front fogs-e/w-rear parking sensors-c/d
player-multi air bags-this is car offers great fuel
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TD4 ES DIESEL 5
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tem-remote control central locking-c/d in-car enter-
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value 7 seater offered at only. **£2995**

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DIESEL INITIAL 7
SEATER
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immob-auto wipers-auto lights-abs-auto t/c-e/w-
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OUTLANDER
ELEGANCE DI-D
7 SEATER
Stardust met silver-black leather-aircon-alloys-e/w-
cd player-c/c-satnav-heated front seats-multi func
steering wheel-elec sunroof-6 speed-15000 miles
from new and full service history **£16995**

SOLD
2002/52 PLATE
VOLKSWAGEN
GOLF 1.9TDI SE
100BHP 5 DOOR
in forest green metallic with contrasting black cloth
interior-electric windows-remote control central
locking-air conditioning-alloy wheels-onboard com-
puter-c/d in-car entertainment system- **£4495**

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1996 ESCORT CABARET 1.6 5 DOOR-RED-POWER STEERING-STEREO-ELECTRIC WINDOWS-C/LOCKING.....£495
N REG FORD MONDEO LX 1.8 ESTATE-BLUE-POWER STEERING-E/W-STEREO-CENTRAL LOCKING-SUNROOF-NEW MOT AND TAXED.....£695
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03 Plate **Ford Fusion 1.4**
27,000 miles



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance
£3999	£99	£3900
36 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable	3 YEARS 0% APR
£108	£3999	

0% APR Finance

52 Plate **Ford Focus 1.8 Zetec**



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance
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FOCUS

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[110] [EURO 4] (2005 - 2007) 57484 MILES	£6999
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2003 53 Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0T Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 121,170 miles, Metallic Black, Sat Nav, Bluetooth Handsfree, Leather seat trim, Radio/CD, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Full Electric Pack, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Alarm, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Air conditioning, Anti theft system, Climate Control, Full Service History, Sports seats, Tinted glass **NOW £4,195**

2001 Y Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0T SE, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 102,941 miles, Metallic Grey, 4 Owners, Heated door mirrors, ABS, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Leather upholstery, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Air conditioning, Radio/Cassette, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Climate Control, Service indicator, Electric mirrors, Remote locking **NOW £2,795**

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PROPERTY NEWS

First-time buyers may face decade of misery

THE current problems in the mortgage market could take a decade to fix, excluding a generation of first-time buyers from getting on to the property ladder, a report has suggested.

The number of mortgages taken out by people with only a ten per cent deposit, loans which are typically associated with first-time buyers, fell dramatically from 245,000 in 2006, to just 28,000 in 2009 – an 89 per cent fall, according to insurer Genworth Financial.

The group said the decrease suggested around 100,000 first-time buyers were excluded from getting on to the property ladder each year during the period.

Angel Mas, president of mortgage insurance Europe at Genworth Financial, said: "The barrier to home ownership appears to be widening, with increasing numbers of first-time buyers excluded – a shocking 100,000 year-on-year between 2006 and 2009.

"The estimation in this report that this is a situation that could take decades, not years, to recover raises real concerns that a whole generation may be excluded from getting a foot on to the housing ladder."

Mortgages reform is not viable proposition

PROPOSALS by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to reform the mortgage market could leave many potential borrowers in danger of being unable to obtain what it is they require, according to What Mortgage.

Earlier in the year the FSA recommended imposing affordability tests for all mortgages and making lenders ultimately responsible for ensuring the borrower's ability to pay, as well as providing extra protection for vulnerable customers.

However, the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) responded by saying that has these changes been in effect from 2005, around 3.8 million 'good' house purchase loans may not have been granted.

Ben Wilkie, editor of What Mortgage, said the FSA needs to listen to industry voices like the CML and in any case, lenders already take steps to reduce their risk.

"Making a cut off for first-time buyers would ruin it for people who want to move house, people who want to remortgage, people who want to invest in property or people who want to downsize when they retire," he added.



IMF predicting double dip for the UK housing market

■ BY NICK AMES

A WARNING has been issued by one of the most respected financial organisations in the world over the immediate future of the housing market.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has suggested the UK property market could experience a double dip.

In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF highlighted that despite Government efforts to boost the housing market and encourage first-time buyers, UK house prices could still be in line for "further correction".

The IMF was referring to the two stamp duty holidays.

"What remains worrisome (about the UK), however, is that house prices are still high based on traditional valuation yardsticks, and policy support may not be enough to prevent further correction," the Fund said.

The IMF points out that a slump in activity had been experienced after a first stamp duty holiday ended in December 2009.

In March 2010, the former Labour Government abolished stamp duty on house purchases up to £250,000 for two years.

The Government said the change would mean 90 per cent of first-time buyers will not pay the duty.

However, despite efforts by the Government, the fact remains that mortgages are less readily available and approvals have slumped. Demand remains at 50 per cent of the level seen prior to the credit crunch.

Meanwhile, the Halifax revealed UK house prices fell by a record 3.6 per cent in September compared with August.

The latest house price fall takes the average cost of a UK home to £162,096, the Halifax said. According to the lender, the monthly decline was the biggest since records began in 1983.

However, it is still too soon to suggest that this is the start of a slump in house prices. The fall in house prices has been attributed to a high level of instructions on the market but a lack of buyer demand, according to many reports.

The uncertainty surrounding the economy is also having a negative impact on the housing market and therefore the market is likely to remain subdued in the short term.



MAKING THE NEWS: September saw the average price of a UK home fall to £162,096, the biggest drop since 1983

However, exact details of the market continue to vary across the UK.

The South East has been among the most resilient when it comes to prices and forecasts and predictions can be distorted by poor performances in the market in the north of England.

Critics of the IMF say the British housing market is unique though and once people feel secure about their future and banks start making mortgages available the housing market will pick up.

People have to live somewhere and British people prefer to buy rather than rent.

Lure of living abroad holds biggest appeal to the British

BRITISH people are unique in the world in their enthusiasm for buying foreign property, according to the Digital Property Group.

The company's head of content Nigel Lewis said there are now

around two million British citizens living abroad.

He said: "Obviously that is a mixture of business people working overseas in places like Singapore, but the majority are people who have retired or have

holiday homes and live overseas for parts of the year," he said.

Interest in buying foreign property peaked in September, figures from the Worldwide Property Group have revealed, with 72 per cent of people saying they think

now is a good time to invest.

The US, Spain and the Caribbean were considered the best places to buy, while Brazil also ranked highly. European countries such as France and Spain also remain popular.

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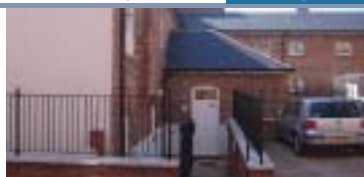
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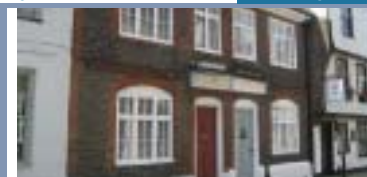
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THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
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**APPROVED PREMISES FOR
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An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

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Picture ADY KERRY



ADRIFT: Canterbury were beaten by a superior Worthing side

Kelly's a hero but Canterbury still lose

Canterbury 20 Worthing 38

A HAT-TRICK of tries from Peter Kelly was not enough for Canterbury as they succumbed to a bonus point home defeat against Worthing.

The Sussex side started the game brightly and opened the scoring with just two minutes on the clock with a well-taken penalty. However, the City club hit back almost immediately when Kelly crashed over the line after picking a catch and drive instigated by Rob Keir.

The lead was short-lived as the visitors

RUGBY

charged down a clearance kick which allowed Greg Sullivan an easy score.

Matters were made worse for the home side when Max Cantwell received a yellow card and during his absence Worthing scored two converted tries.

The game swung back Canterbury's way once Sullivan was sent to the sin bin for a similar offence to Cantwell's. The hosts made the most of the opportunity with tries from Andy Pratt and Kelly cutting

the deficit. Kelly came close to a third try just before the break, but he was stopped short of the line by the Worthing defence.

It didn't take long for Kelly to complete his hat-trick with a try within five minutes of the second-half. The scoring soon came to an abrupt halt as the wind and rain prevented Canterbury attacking the Worthing 22.

The defeat was confirmed late on when the visitors scored two long range penalties to make the score 20-38 at full-time.

The defeat leaves Danny Vaughan's side 11th in National 2 South ahead of Saturday's clash against Southend.

HOCKEY

Win takes ladies to top of the table

CANTERBURY ladies moved to the top of the England Hockey Premier Division after recording a comfortable victory against Bowdon Hightown.

Bowdon Hightown took an early lead through Fay Nash on eight minutes, but a brace from Susie Rowe and a strike from Lucy Hyams, all in the first-half, secured a 3-1 win for the ladies.

It was Canterbury's third win in a row and moved them top of the division and a point above nearest rivals Leicester. They welcome a struggling Reading side to Polo Farm on Saturday.

The men's 1st XI's slow start to the Premier Division season continued with a 3-2 defeat at home to Bowdon. Michael Hoare's strike on the half-hour mark gave the visitors the lead, but Ross Gillingham-Jones equalised on the stroke of half-time.

However, goals from Tim Gilbert and James Adgey restored Bowdon's advantage. Michael Farrar converted a penalty corner, but it was not enough to prevent a third defeat from five games.

Keep up-to-date with live cup action

IT'S a big weekend of FA Cup action this weekend and there's only one way to follow all the action as it happens: Kent Football Live.

Can Hythe Town make history and reach the first round proper? As one of our featured games on Saturday, we'll keep you updated with events at Reachfields as Kent League Hythe take on Conference South side Staines Town.

We will also bring you goals and all the talking points from Dover's trip to Farnborough in the cup, along with Dartford's game against Leiston.

Another of our featured games is Ebbsfleet's trip to Boreham Wood, and we'll also have a reporter at Gillingham's League Two clash with Torquay United.

If you are not a fan of any of these sides, don't panic, we will bring you all the team news and goals right the way across the county on the only interactive live update system in Kent.

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PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture ADY KERRY

ALL-ROUNDER: Matt Coles' form last season was one of the few high points for Kent in what turned out to be a tough one both on and off the pitch for the St Lawrence club

Coles waiting on Kent decision over his future at St Lawrence

ONE of Kent's bright hopes for the future says he has yet to be offered a new contract at St Lawrence and has admitted the uncertainty is playing on his mind.

Matt Coles, the 20-year-old all-rounder, is one of several of the club's young stars out of contract at the end of next season, which means if Kent decided against offering a new deal this winter, other counties would be entitled to speak to those players in the summer.

Undoubtedly the major highlight of what was a disappointing season for Kent, Coles will surely be at the front of the queue when it comes to extending contracts at St Lawrence.

The fast bowler grabbed his chance in the first-team with both hands, sending down 234 overs in championship cricket and claiming 24 wickets at an average of 36.

Opportunity

Coles was among a crop of young players offered the carrot of an opportunity in first-class cricket this summer, and while the likes of Phil Edwards and Warren Lee failed to take that chance, the Maidstone-born left-hander quickly forced his way into the side and made it hard for team selectors to drop him.

Coles has been sent to Perth, Australia, to continue his development over the winter as

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

part of a six-month ECB scholarship, and while he is looking forward to working on his game, tying up his future at Kent dominates his thoughts.

"It plays on my mind, even when I am over here," he said, speaking from Australia. "I do not know what they are going to come back with, but I am pretty sure they want to keep me from what Farby [head coach Paul Farbrace] has told me.

"It looks like I will get another year, I would rather another two but it looks like one, so we will have to go from there.

"Hopefully it will be sorted out as soon as possible, before Christmas would be good."

Having played for Kent at under-13, under-15 and under-17 level before being accepted on the Academy programme, Coles is a genuine product of the county's coaching set-up, and staying at St Lawrence is his number one priority.

"I have grown up at Kent and have come through the age groups so I do not want to leave the club," he said.

"I want to stay as loyal to Kent as I can like Rob Key and James Tredwell have. I do not want to have the hassle of going to another team. Kent will give me the best opportunity to

play first-team cricket and that's what I have to be looking at."

Coles has shown genuine promise as an all-rounder, registering a maiden half-century in the game against Lancashire, and taking 4-55 against Warwickshire where he showed his ability to bowl a 'heavy' ball that accounted for England batsman Jonathan Trott.

The county's coaching staff have been mindful of pushing him too far too soon, but there's no doubt Coles wants to be an all-rounder. It's hardly surprising; watching him in training, there's a child-like innocence where he wants to be involved in everything, whether it be batting, bowling or fielding, such his enthusiasm for the game.

While out in Australia, trying to curb that enthusiasm is something he hopes to achieve as he is aware of his growing importance to Kent's already depleted bowling attack.

"It's about getting ready for the English cricket season and Stuart Walters, who also plays for Surrey, is our captain at Perth and I know he isn't going to push me. I need to take things a bit slower as the last thing we need is for me to come back with an injury and miss parts of the season because that wouldn't be good for anyone.

"If I do get something that is sore I know I will not want to pull out of a game or training and watch, but I have to be sensible and ensure that I am going to be fit for Kent."

Ten-man Herne Bay close out win to move joint top

FOOTBALL

BY TONY HUDD

Herne Bay 2

Brown 33, Hanson 48

Fisher 1

O'Donnell 54

MANAGER Simon Halsey acclaimed his ten-men as Herne Bay stretched their unbeaten run to ten games with a hard-earned win against Fisher.

Last season, Bay enjoyed a 14-game unbeaten sequence that took them to within touching distance of top spot and Halsey believes his players are in the mood to improve on that after becoming joint leaders of the Kent League.

Their unbeaten run was under threat early in the game on Saturday however, as Bay were forced to play 70 minutes with ten-men after Danny Lawrence was shown a straight red following a challenge.

"Last season we went 14 unbeaten, but such is the spirit in the side that I'm convinced we can beat that," Halsey said. "Unbeaten runs act as a terrific motivation to players.

"The longer they last, the more determined players become. That certainly showed on

Saturday because a very good Fisher side made us work hard for the three points.

"At the final whistle, our lads were absolutely exhausted, while I was just elated. The players were brilliant and I would rate that as one of our best performances of the season so far."

Simon Brown gave Bay a 33rd minute lead which defender Steve Hanson increased in the 48th following a set-piece from which Luke Harvey touched the ball into his path.

Fisher replied through Steve O'Donnell in the 54th minute, prompting a nerve-jangling finale for the home side and their supporters in which Halsey continually switched formations from 3-4-2 to 4-4-1 to try and confuse the visitors.

Victory leaves Bay second with 19 points, the same as leaders Beckenham who have two games in hand.

Last season, Bay had to settle for the runners-up spot behind runaway leaders Faversham. This term, Halsey believes the race for the title will be a close run affair.

He said: "I believe the league is stronger this season and I can't see any one team getting away from the rest, as was the case last season.

"Hythe, VCD, Deal, Beckenham and ourselves are all in with a shout and it could go to the wire.

"Our ambition is to bring Ryman League football to this club and everyone involved is working hard to fulfil that ambition."

Bay will be looking to extend their unbeaten sequence on Saturday away to Corinthian.



FORM: Luke Harvey laid the ball on for Steve Hanson

FOOTBALL

Town boss prepared for Burgess Hill visit

WHITSTABLE Town manager Mark Lane admitted to having mixed emotions as his side were without a game at the weekend.

The Oystermen, who have been without a home game for several weeks, would welcome the revenue, while on the other side of the coin the weekend break should aid the recovery from injury of Louis Smith and Gary Sayer in time for Saturday's home game against sixth-placed Burgess Hill.

Lane admitted: "With no home game now for several weeks, it puts a strain on finances, though I'm bound to admit the break has provided that bit of extra time for certain players to progress from injuries. All being well, I would hope to have a squad of 16-17 players from which to select against Burgess Hill."

However, the players were not given Saturday off. After supervising training in the morning, Lane moved on to Homelands, Ashford to watch opponents Burgess Hill lose 2-0 to Maidstone in an FA Trophy first qualifying round tie.

He said: "Having a free Saturday did enable me to take a good look at Burgess Hill and it certainly helped make up my mind which formation we'll adopt against them."

Though Whitstable sit 18th in Ryman South, five points above bottom side Corinthian Casuals, Lane is reasonably content with the team's progress as they approach the quarter way mark in the season.

He said: "Apart from a bad defeat against Ilford, we've not done badly and I certainly thought we deserved better against Tooting.

"Once we get our injured players back then hopefully I'll be able to announce unchanged teams which will help with consistency."



TACTICS: Mark Lane plans side's next game

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Leatherhead	12	9	2	1	+23	29
2 Metropolitan Police	8	8	0	0	+24	24
3 Sittingbourne	12	6	3	3	+5	21
4 Bognor Regis Town	9	6	2	1	+10	20
5 Godalming Town	10	6	1	3	-3	19
6 Burgess Hill Town	10	5	3	2	+2	18
7 Dulwich Hamlet	10	5	1	4	+3	16
8 Walton Casuals	10	5	1	4	+2	16
9 Chipstead	10	4	3	3	-2	15
10 Merstham	11	3	5	3	-2	14
11 Worthing	10	3	4	3	+6	13
12 Eastbourne Town	10	3	4	3	-3	13
13 Whitehawk	8	3	3	2	+8	12
14 Clacton Town	11	4	0	7	-8	12
15 Faversham Town	10	3	2	5	-3	11
16 Fleet Town	8	3	1	4	-5	10
17 Ramsgate	10	2	2	6	-5	8
18 Whitstable Town	9	2	2	5	-5	8
19 Whyteleafe	10	2	2	6	-9	8
20 Walton & Hersham	10	2	1	7	-6	7
21 Horsham YMCA	10	2	1	7	-22	7
22 Corinthian-Casuals	10	0	3	7	-10	3

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Beckenham Town	8	6	1	1	11	19
2 Herne Bay	10	5	4	1	7	19
3 VCD Athletic	8	5	2	1	5	17
4 Deal Town	9	5	1	3	1	16
5 Greenwhich Borough	8	5	0	3	7	15
6 Hythe Town	7	4	1	2	6	13
7 Sevenoaks Town	9	4	1	4	-2	13
8 Tunbridge Wells	7	3	3	1	10	12
9 Erith Town	8	3	3	2	3	12
10 Norton Sports	8	2	4	2	1	10
11 Fisher	9	2	1	5	-5	10
12 Corinthian	7	2	1	4	-5	7
13 Erith & Belvedere	6	2	0	4	-3	6
14 Lordswood	7	1	2	4	-5	5
15 Holmesdale	10	1	2	7	-11	5
16 Sporting Bengal Utd7	0	0	7	5	-20	0

KENT COUNTY LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Cray Valley (PM)	10	7	2	1	17	23
2 Hollands & Blair	9	6	3	0	17	21
3 Bridon Ropes	10	7	0	3	9	21
4 Rushall	10	5	9	2	8	18
5 Phoenix Sports	10	5	2	3	5	17
6 Canterbury City	9	5	0	4	0	15
7 Stansfeld O&B Club	10	4	1	5	1	13
8 Bly Spartans	10	3	3	4	2	12
9 Lewisham Borough	9	3	2	4	4	11
10 Sutton Athletic	10	3	1	6	-4	10
11 Charlton Community8	3	1	4	13	-6	10
12 Snodland	10	2	4	4	-7	10
13 Fleet Leisure	8	2	3	3	-4	9
14 Woodstock Park	9	2	2	5	-12	8
15 Bearsted	9	1	4	4	-12	7
16 Tonbridge Invicta	9	1	1	7	-18	4

FIXTURES (Saturday):

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH: Whitstable Town v Burgess Hill Town; KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Corinthian v Herne Bay; KENT INTERMEDIATE CHALLENGE CUP: Swale United v Canterbury City

City come from behind in nail-biting Bly encounter

FOOTBALL

Canterbury City 4 Bly Spartans 3

MIDFIELDER Jake Gess celebrated his Canterbury debut with a late winner as City emerged triumphant from a pulsating encounter with Bly Spartans on Saturday.

Three times City came from behind to draw level before former Whitstable and Herne Bay midfielder Gess had the final word after the home side scored twice in the final ten minutes to register a memorable win.

Compared to the closing stages, the opening exchanges were tame before Bly's much-travelled striker Lyndon Rowland opened the scoring.

City were back on level terms within five minutes thanks to Royston Gough who took advantage of some smart play by Sam Baker and Renford Tenyue.

Rowland restored Bly's lead in the 20th minute. Then another well-timed pass from the back, this time from Darren Mills, allowed Michael Smissen to fire home despite the close attentions of the Bly goalkeeper and two defenders.

City's joy was short-lived as two minutes later Bly regained the lead. As the weather worsened in the second-half, play became scrappy.

Many of City's attacks foundered on Bly central defender Kevin Penfold, who was outstanding at the heart of the visitors' defence.

But City would not be denied a third



GAME ON: Michael Smissen brought City back in the game when he fired home a well-timed pass

equaliser and a fine piece of skill by Gough allowed him to level.

With eight minutes of normal time remaining, both teams threw caution to the wind as they searched for the winner.

With 90 minutes on the clock, the referee played a superb advantage after Gess was fouled. The midfielder took advantage by unleashing an unstoppable shot to secure what had once appeared an unlikely victory.

There was still time for both teams to miss chances with Smissen going close to adding a fifth for City.

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K.O. 3pm



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